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The History of Montpelier From 1864 to 1925

A. McKay Rich
Utah State University

THE HISTORY OF MONTPELIER FROM 1864 TO 1925

by

A. McKay Rich

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PREFACE

There have been many histories written on the great movements of American History and most states have had their histories, but almost endless localities have been neglected. Yet it is in the localities that we find the great stories and problems of the states, nations, and world in their embryonic stages. There is no better place to begin a realization of the heritage of America than in the story of one's own locality. It is for these reasons that I have chosen to write this paper upon the history of Montpelier, Idaho.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am indebted to many individuals and institutions for aid in preparing this manuscript. I wish especially to express my appreciation to my Major Professor, Dr. Joel E. Ricks, for his sage advice and endless patience and for his first suggesting this subject to me; to Dr. J. Duncan Brite for his suggestions on organization and form; to Fred Crukshank, a leading citizen of Montpelier, for access to his great fund of personal information; to his daughter, Winifred Smuin, for her encouragement and help in collecting data and photographs; to the Latter Day Saint Church Historian's Office for access to its records; to Mrs. H. A. Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Taylor for access to the files of the News Examiner; to my father, Dan C. Rich, for his advice and information; to all those mentioned in my bibliography and otherwise who have helped me in any way; and more especially to my wife, who has spent long hours in collecting data and helping prepare this manuscript. My thanks to all.

A. M. Rich

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BEAR LAKE VALLEY BEFORE THE SETTLEMENT OF MONTPELIER

Nestled between the Preuss Range and the Bear River Mountains is Bear Lake Valley. At the south end of the valley lies Bear Lake, half in Idaho and half in Utah.

> ...one of the most beautiful lakes in the West and therefore in the world. From the east shore, bare hills of burnt sienna rise sheer from the water's edge, culminating in the gentle domes of the Bear River divide, while to the west, beyond a narrow hem of gently sloping arable land, rise sparsely covered hills of hock and quaking asp, topped by the dark timber of the main Wasatch Ridge. At the north end of the lake is the outlet to Bear River, which at this point swings in from the east. . .[1]

A few miles northeast of this point is the city of Montpelier, the metropolis of the valley with its railroad, phosphate mill, grain elevators, motels, business houses, etc.

The Indians

One hundred and fifty years ago, so far as we know, no white man had ever set foot in Bear Lake Valley. This was the land of the red men, whose nomadic wanderings made this but a haven among havens.[2]

The valley at that time was claimed by the Bannock and Shoshone Indians as their summer hunting and camping grounds; here they came from the buffalo country with their hides and their pelts to dress and tan preparatory to their barter with the Utes. The Utes were not a people who went for buffalo, but they would generally once a year meet the Snakes and Bannocks at the south end of the lake and exchange ponies and

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1. Dale, Harrison C. The Ashley-Smith Explorations and the Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific, 1882-1829. p. 226.
2. Rich, Russell. The Latter Day Saint Settlement at Bear Lake Valley.

commodities for robes and furs and would spend the balance of their time gambling. Thousands of Indians congregated near the present site of Laketown, Utah, to engage in these activities.[1]

Old timers of the valley maintained that at the time of white occupation irrigation canals were in existence in the bottom lands, indicating that some of the Indians practiced irrigation. For years the settlers called these channels Nephite canals. Some evidence of them remains today.[2] The practices requiring irrigation are unknown so far as can be determined by the author.

Fur men

Bear Lake and Montpelier were for three decades near the geographical center of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company trapping area. Trappers crossed this spot often as they moved north towards Pierre's Hole, south towards Ogden, east towards the Green River, or west towards Cache Valley.

Probably the first white men to traverse the vicinity of Montpelier were Robert Stuart and his party returning east from Astoria in 1812.[3] Being frightened by Indians near the present site of Montpelier the group swung to the northeast onto the Salt River, thence to the Snake. Had it not been for this departure from their original course of travel along the Bear River they would have followed the trail now used by the Union Pacific Railroad.[4]

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1. Rich, Joseph C. Early Days in Bear Lake County.
2. Interviews with Mrs. R. K. Nelson and Mr. Daniel C. Rich.
3. Chittenden, Hiram. The American Fur Trade of the Far West, p. 151-153. An account is given of the exploration done by John Hoback, Jacob Rezner, Edward Robinson, and a certain Miller in the employ of John Jacob Astor. From this I gather these men were on the Bear River during the latter part of 1811 and early part of 1812. It is possible that these men came into the vicinity of Montpelier. Se also Washington Irving's Astoria.
4. Beal, M. D. A History of Southeastern Idaho, pp. 68-72.

> The lake was probably discovered by the Northwesterners, for Alexander Ross prints a letter written by Donald MacKenzie on September 10, 1819 from 'Black Bears Lake;' and in his account of his own adventures in the summer of 1824, Ross writes that his party considered proceeding by the Blackfeet river to... Bear Lake, where the country was already known. Still, it is curious that William Kittson, who was a member of MacKenzie's party in 1819-20, should later have drawn a map of the Bear River Country which has no intimation that such a lake existed. For the Americans, Bear Lake undoubtedly was discovered by Captain Weber in the fall of 1824, because Jin Beawourth calls it 'Weaver's Lake.' The lake has many names--Little Lake, Sweet Lake and Sweet Water Lake (to distinguish it from Great Salt Lake), Little Snake Lake, and Trout Lake. . . .[1]

As fortune would have it, Bear Lake was selected as the site for the annual rendezvous in 1827. Rendezvous was at the south end of the lake near present Laketown, Utah, where a marker stands today stating that 130 bales of beaver furs were taken for shipment to St. Louis by pack train.

> A trail from Bear River ran along the west shore of the lake, and it was by this trail undoubtedly, that the lake was first discovered. . .[2]

The lake could also be approached from the west by way of Logan Canyon, south through Blacksmith Fork--the way Jedediah Smith was led by his Snake guide as he returned from California, or from the east by crossing a narrow divide which separated the lake from Bear River further south. Upon Smith's arrival at the rendezvous a salute was fired from a four-pounder cannon, apparently purchased on Sublette's orders.[3] The cannon was taken from Missouri on carriage as far as Bear Lake in 1827, the first serious effort to demonstrate that a natural road existed all the way from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.[4]

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1. Morgan, Dale. Jedediah Smith, p. 227.
2. Op. cit., p. 227.
3. Sullivan, Maurice S. Jedediah Smith Trader and Trailbreaker, p. 113.
4. Morgan, Dale, op. cit., p. 227.

The gathering of the trappers at Bear Lake began in June and was attended with a degree of excitement. (Daniel) Potts relates that a few days before his own return from the trapping expedition into central Utah, 'a party of about 120 Blackfeet approached the camp and killed a Snake Indian and his squaw. The alarm was immediately given and the Snakes, Utaws and whites sallied forth for battle---the enemy fled to the mountains to a small concavity thickly grown with small timber surrounded by open ground. In this engagement the squaws were busily engaged in throwing up batteries and dragging off the dead. There were only six whites engaged in this battle who immediately advanced within pistol shot, and you may be assured that almost every shot counted one. The loss of the Snakes was three killed and the same number wounded; that of the whites, one wounded and two narrowly made their escape; that of the Utaws was none, though they gained great applause for their bravery. The loss of the enemy is not known--six were found dead on the ground, a great number besides were carried off on horses.'

Jim Backwourth participated in this battle, and the account he gives of it illustrates the facility with which he embroidered the facts; the fruits of victory, Jim says, 'were one hundred and seventy-three scalps, with numerous quivers of arrows, ear-clubs, battle-axes, and lances. . . . The trappers had seven or eight men wounded, but none killed. Our allies lost eleven killed in battle.' But Beckwourth does furnish two details to amplify Daniel Potts' factual report: The scene of the fight was the shore of Bear Lake, perhaps five miles from camp, and William L. Sublette took a valiant part in the battle.[1]

Another noted visitor to this area was Captain Bonneville, opportunist and adventurer. Of his travels in the Bear Lake area the following was written:

Proceeding down this river (Bear River), the party encamped, on the 6th of November (1833), at the outlet of a lake three miles in width, completely imbedded in low ranges of mountains, and connected with Bear River by an impassable swamp. It is called the Little Lake, to distinguish it from the great one of salt water.[2]

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1. Morgan, Dale, op. cit., p. 227. For Pott's account see also Warren Angus Ferris, Life in the Rocky Mountains. p. 269.
2. Irving, Washington. Captain Bonneville, p. 301.

After pursuing his exploration north and west, Captain Bonneville returned to Bear Lake in June of 1834.

> Pursuing his course up Bear River, Captain Bonneville arrived on the 13th of June at the Little Snake Lake where he encamped for four or five days, that he might examine its shores and outlets. The latter he found extremely muddy and so surrounded by swamps and quagmires that he was obliged to construct canoes of rushes with which to explore them. The mouths of all these streams which fall into this lake from the west are marshy and inconsiderable, but on the east side there is a beautiful beach, broken occasionally by high and isolated bluffs, which advance upon the lake and heighten the character of the scenery. The water is very shallow but abounds with trout, and other small fish.[1]

It was noted that the party shot buffalo on the river flat between Soda Springs and Bear Lake.

As late as 1860 a trapper by the name of Thomas L.Smith brought several head of cattle to Bear Lake Valley and attempted to establish a permanent settlement on what is now known as Peg Leg Island, a small island lying in Bear River, between Dingle and Wardboro. The story is told that his leg was injured by Indians or by frost, making it necessary for him to amputate his own leg, using a saw built by his own hand. He was thereafter known as Peg Leg Smith.[2]

Though his trapping was quite successful, Peg Leg became discouraged when most of his cattle froze to death during the winter of 1862. He left the valley in the autumn of 1863, about the same time that the settlers were moving in. Two log cabins were left standing upon his island.[3]

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1. Ibid., p. 402.
2. Jenson, Andrew, History of Dingle Ward, p. 4.

Aside from the colorful names given prominent landmarks, not much of permanent value can be attributed to the fur trade of this region. To the fur men this was largely an area of giving, receiving little in return. Perhaps they should receive the credit for making known a possible wagon route to the Pacific. During the interlude from the decline of the fur trade to the Mormon settlements, many settlers passed through the vicinity of Montpelier by this route.

The Oregon Trail

In 1835 Marcus Whitman, American pioneer, doctor and missionary among the Indians, visited the Pacific Northwest with Samuel Parker. He had been appointed a missionary physician to Oregon by the American Board for Foreign Missions. He returned to Oregon in 1836, accompanied by his wife, Reverend Henry Spaulding and his wife, and W. H. Gray. They drove their wagon as far as Fort Boise and thus were credited with opening that part of the wagon road to Oregon. In describing this journey, Clifford Drury says:

> From the rendezvous (held in 1836 on the Green River near present Daniel, Wyoming) to Fort Hall, the missionaries accomodated themselves to the Indian method of travel, which was to make but one camp a day. While crossing the plains, the caravan had stopped for a two-hour period at midday for rest and refreshment. The Indians, however, did not stop after they started in the morning until they were ready to camp for the night. The women (the first white women to cross the United States) found this rather trying and were glad to be able to resume their former way of travelling after the Indians left them at Fort Hall. On Saturday, July 30, they passed by the small geysers and soda springs in the vicinity of what is now Soda Springs, Idaho. Spalding looked into the future and saw the time when a railroad would cross the Rockies and bring visitors from the far east. . . . to visit the west and see the great soda fountain of the Rocky Mountains.[1]

1. Drury, Clifford M. Marcus Whitman, M. D., Pioneer and Martyr, p. 149. This party probably passed through the Montpelier site about July 28, 1836.

These missionaries, along with promoters such as Hall J. Kelley, painted a glowing picture of the Oregon Country and so stirred the hearts of some people in the East that they organized emigration societies to promote interest and enlist recruits.

> "A variety of factors aided the cause: Hard times brought on by the Panic of 1837; a desire to escape the ague in the Mississippi Valley; opportunity visioned by poor whites to achieve social equality in a new land; adventure; patriotic zeal to win Oregon for the United States; alluring economic opportunities; the very momentum of the westward movement all were to contribute in swelling the ranks of westbound emigrants.[1]

The actual overland migration of settlers did not begin until 1841. A band of 70 persons left the Missouri frontier in May, 1841, and moved west over the Oregon Trail. That summer this first sizeable migration passed through the vicinity of Montpelier.[2]

In 1842, Dr. Elijah White led a party of over 100 men, women and children over the same trail, but the great year for migrations was 1843.[3] Had we been standing in Montpelier that summer, we could have counted 200 families in 120 wagons with 694 oxen and 773 loose cattle, in a trail led by Marcus Whitman.[4] We could have greeted the "Great Migration," led by Peter Burnett, comprised of 1,000 persons.[5] "A census taken in eastern Kansas and reported in Niles Register showed 121 wagons, 698 oxen, 296 horses and 973 loose cattle. There were 260 men, 130 women and 610 children."[6]

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1. Hafen, LeRoy and Rister, Carl C. Western America, p. 243.
2. Ibid., p. 244.
3. Ibid.
4. Beal, M. D. A History of Southeastern Idaho, p. 80.
5. Billington, Ray. Westward Expansion, p. 524.
6. Hafen and Rister, op. cit., p. 245.

Peter Burnett wrote:

> On the 17th (of August) we arrived on the banks of Bear River, a clear, beautiful stream with abundance of good fish and plenty of wild ducks and geese. On the 22nd we arrived at the great Soda Springs, when we left Bear River for Fort Hall. . . .[1]

This would have placed them in the vicinity of Montpelier about the 21st of August.

Captain John C. Fremont, who was in Bear Lake Valley that same year, noted that the Oregon settlers paused there to feed and refresh their stock.[2]

For three decades, thousands upon thousands of settlers followed this trail, but this mountainous valley held no beckoning call for those whose vision was Oregon, and it was left until the Mormon pioneers saw its values and its need before permanent settlement occurred.

Paris, the first settlement in the valley

Because of the influx of immigrants into Utah and in order to take full advantage of the new homestead laws passed by Congress in 1862,[3] it became necessary for the Mormon Church to seek additional areas for settlements. In 1863 a meeting was held in Logan where Brigham Young stated the need to explore Bear Lake Valley as a possible site for settlement.[4]

> Beyond the fact that the country was known to be of a high altitude and therefore very cold and subject to deep snows in the winter, little else was known. It was accordingly

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1. Burnett, Peter H. "Recollections of an old Pioneer," The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society, p. 76.
2. Bancroft, Hubert H. History of Washington, Idaho and Montana, p. 548.
3. Rich, Daniel C. The Early Days of Bear Lake County, p. 3.
4. Ricks, Dr. Joel E. Forms and Methods of Mormon Settlement, p. 136.

> arranged that General Rich should go into Cache Valley, select a company of 50 horsemen with necessary baggage wagons and explore the valley with a view of its permanent settlement. This was done. . . in the month of September, 1863. At that time there were no roads connecting this valley with the Utah settlements. The company came to Franklin in Cache County, then the most northern settlement, thence to Mink Creek and up the noted 'Dugway,' so well known to all old settlers, and down Emigration Canyon, near Liberty, and into the valley. They cut the dead timber out of the way and made such scratches of dugway, and built such bridges as could not be avoided--and thus the first highway to Bear Lake was an accomplished fact.[1]

Exploring parties were sent out on both sides of the valley and it was agreed that the country possessed the necessary water for home use and irrigation, abundant hay land, favorable locations for town sites, plenty of wildlife and, to all appearances, soil and climate suitable to produce the hardier grains and vegetables and would justify the efforts of colonization.[2]

The call for settlers to effect the settlement came from Brigham Young, after consultation with Apostle Rich. Since Rich would have wanted men with whom he could work, it is likely that he made the selections. The list of names was submitted to the general conference of the church to be voted upon, for everything had to be done by "common consent." This applied not only to the first group but subsequent groups also. The people selected came from various areas such as Tooele County, Davis County, Weber Valley and Cache Valley; however, most of the early settlers came from Salt Lake County, partly because that was the largest county that could be drawn from.[3]

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1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
2. Ibid.
3. Evans, John Henry. Charles Coulsen Rich, Pioneer Builder of the West, p. 279.

The first company of settlers, consisting of 12 men and one woman, left Franklin on September 18 and travelled eight days, reaching the site for settlement on September 26, 1863.[1] The following day was Sunday and a religious service was held, at which time Apostle Rich instructed the pioneers on their duties in the new settlement.[2] They were to be organized into groups, some to cut the wild hay for winter feed, some to cut and haul quaking aspens for building purposes, and others to build huts for winter shelter.[3]

That Sunday night it snowed, but early the next morning scythe blades were singing in the frosty air and the first hay making in Bear Lake Valley had begun.[4]

Thomas Sleight says the country was not a desolate waste, but a howling wilderness. Wild life was abundant with bears and mountain lions inhabiting the forested area, wolves, wolverines, coyotes and badgers occupying the plains, and the ground squirrel, their greatest pest, living everywhere the earth was dry.[5]

> A ward organization was effected by selecting Robert H. Williams temporary bishop and other necessary aides, and the little colony was left to work out its own winter destiny, General Rich returning to Salt Lake.[6]

Before leaving, Apostle Rich took into consideration the problem of the Indians. He held a consultation with Washakie, Chief of the Shoshones

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1. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 32-33.
2. Sleight, Thomas. "Early Days in Bear Lake Valley," Montpelier Examiner, January 3, 1908.
3. Rich, Dan C. op. cit., p. 3.
4. Passey, Earl. Settlement and Development of Montpelier and Bear Lake, p. 6.
5. Rich, Dan C. op. cit., p. 4.
6. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.

and a personal friend of Brigham Young, and Tighe, Chief of the Bannock tribe, explaining that Brigham Young had instructed him to lead the colonization of this valley and requesting their cooperation. The chiefs readily consented with the reservation that all the country at the south end of the lake be left open as a camping ground for the Indians. It was further stipulated that when the whites had succeeded in raising crops they would contribute what they could to visiting Indians. Washakie very suggestively said:

> Indians very much like the white man--some good, some bad; we can't always control them--some young bucks will steal, but if they steal your stock and we find it out, we will send them back.

He subsequently did send them back on several occasions. Some of the whites did not follow the terms of the agreement and enclosed lands on the south side of the lake during 1865. Chief Washakie ordered his Indians to break down the fences and turn their horses in on the crops, reminding the whites that if they could not take General Rich's advice perhaps they would take his. Later during this same year an agreement was concluded, permitting the settlement of these southern sections.[1]

Fortune smiled upon the tiny settlement that first year, giving a mild and open winter, and the spirits of the settlers remained high even though the colony was practically dead to the outside world.[2]

The first baby was born on October 21, 1863. He was Peter Maughan, son of John and M. Davenport Maughan. On November 9, 1863, a daughter, Agnes, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hogenson. She later became the president of the Montpelier Relief Society.[3]

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid.
3. Rich, Dan C. op. cit., p. 4.

In addition to their religious services held in the homes on Sunday and Thursday nights, the people danced, held debates and organized a dramatics club. Two men made a 46-mile trip to Franklin to secure fiddle strings for use in the musical numbers of "William Tell," the first theatrical production in the valley.[1]

In May of 1864, Brigham Young and a company of 112 persons visited Paris. The reporter for this trip gave the following description of the settlement:

> Paris is situated at the mouth of North Twin Creek (the north branch of Paris Creek) has 34 log houses, is laid out in a low place along the banks of North Twin Creek, which runs through an extensive willow patch. . . Twin Creek is supplied by a large spring and the amount of running water is only varied by the melting snows and heavy rains. It is a large canyon stream and calculated to supply an extensive settlement. The soil is a fine rich loam and well adapted to cereal crops, roots, etc. About one mile from this settlement there is a large patch of hay ground, extending 20 miles north and south and 10 miles east and west. The climate is well adapted to hardy fruits of every kind. The hills are covered with fine grasses, and promise well for grazing. . .[2]

On Saturday, May 22, a meeting was held out of doors opposite the dwelling of Elder Charles C. Rich. Brigham Young cautioned the settlers to build so as to protect themselves against Indian attacks, "to be careful about going to the canyons, to educate their children, to build good and comfortable homes, and to adopt laws for the punishment of the lawless."[3]

The houses built in 1863 had been clustered together in any shape on the north side of Paris Creek. When Charles C. Rich returned to the colony in 1864, he brought with him Frederick T. Perris, an engineer, who laid

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1. Ibid., p. 5. See also The Idaho Encyclopedia, p. 221.
2. Deseret News, June 8, 1864, p. 292.
3. Ibid., See Appendix I for context of speech.

out the first street, established the base line, and surveyed the three blocks north of the creek, thus starting a systematic townsite. The settlement was named in honor of this man but the people corrupted the spelling to Paris.[1]

1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.

MONTPELIER - 1864 TO 1880

The pioneers who spent the first winter in Paris had been called to settle Bear Lake Valley, not just Paris. Other towns undoubtedly would have been founded in 1863 had initial arrival of settlers not been so late in the fall. Consequently with the approach of spring many of the settlers at Paris began to seek locations for other townsites.

Because of the spring thaws and the full streams the bottom lands of the valley were almost entirely covered with water, making it difficult to approach the tillable ground at the base of the eastern mountains. Even so, 16 men and their families loaded their wagons and set out early in April to select a site for settlement. They travelled north along the high ground on the western side of the valley until they reached a point upon the Bear River. There it became necessary to construct a crude ferry made of logs which carried the wagons across, while the oxen and horses were compelled to swim. "The ferry boat was attached with ropes to large posts on either side of the river and the men pulled the boat back and forth by hand."[1]

After successfully crossing the river the settlers gained the high ground at the east and proceeded south until they arrived on the banks of a sizeable stream "emptying from a nearby canyon." They chose as their site of settlement the vicinity where the Oregon Trail crossed this stream. Because of the luxuriant growth of wild clover on the banks of the creek, the settlement was named Clover Creek,[2] a name short-lived

1. Passey, Earl. op.cit., p. 8.
2. Swensen, Mrs. Mary J. Interview.

since Brigham Young, while on his visit to the valley in 1864, suggested the name Montpelier after the city with the same name in his native Vermont.[1]

"Paris can be called the mother of the settlements and Montpelier her first born."[2]

The 16 men who, with their families, founded this settlement were: Thomas Mantle, Ebenezer Landers, John Maughan, William Severns, Hezekiah Moore, John Cozzens, Dr. John Ellis, Christian Hogenson, John Turner, William Teeples, John Bunney, William Vaughn, Gideon Harmison, Isaac Thorn, Clark Ames, and Charles Atkinson.[3]

Since no one had been appointed to preside over them and since some form of simple government was an immediate necessity the men met in council, and without a dissenting vote, chose John Cozzens to be their leader. Later this matter was referred to Apostle Rich, who ordained John an elder and set him apart to preside over the new community, a position he held for ten years.[4]

The most pressing problems facing the people were breaking the soil and preparing it for seed and securing shelter for the families. As a temporary measure, the men lifted their wagon boxes from the running gear for the women and children to sleep in and built crude brush and willow shelters for them to live in until cabins could be built.[5]

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1. Rich, Dan C. op. cit.
2. Sleight, Thomas. loc. cit.
3. Jenson, Andrew. A History of Bear Lake Stake. (not numbered)
4. Poulsen, Ezra J. Life of Almira Cozzens Rich, pp. 2-3.
5. Perkins, Anne Marie Bunney. "Autobiographical Sketch of Her Life," News Examiner clipping, no date.

The spring of 1864 brought 700 additional home-seekers to homestead the lands and extend settlements throughout the valley.[1] Because of the snow in Emigration Canyon, most of them came by way of Bear River. Some of them stopped at Montpelier and by the winter of 1864-65, thirty-five families were in residence there.[2]

Shortly after the arrival of the settlers the townsite was surveyed by Joseph C. Rich. In accordance with instructions from Brigham Young, the houses were to be grouped in a central area and one full block was to be left empty for use as a public square. The main street, now Fourth Street, was to be wider than the rest to accommodate the traffic of a future busy city.[3]

The town was laid out following the pattern of earlier settlements; thus it was divided into ten acre blocks which, in turn, were divided into eight lots of equal size. The streets were eight rods wide. That land surrounding the townsite was divided into five acre lots, next adjoining ten acres, and further out, 20 acres. The land was distributed by drawing lots at a public meeting held for that purpose.[4] This plan was followed to prevent any man from owning large acreage near the city to the detriment of his neighbors, and it also discouraged land speculation which Brigham Young opposed.[5] In addition the five-acre plots could be reserved for the artisans or other townsmen who wished to supplement their larders by raising small quantities of produce. The larger acreage would be

1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
2. For a complete list, see Appendix II.
3. Passey, Earl. op. cit., pp. 11-12.
4. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
5. Young, Levi Edgar. The Founding of Utah, p. 210.

drawn by farmers.[1]

The open fields were jointly enclosed and the natural wild hay was available to all according to need and ambition.[2] Livestock was protected by maintaining a community corral.[3] "The lands were not surveyed by the government until 12 or 14 years later, the only title then held being the local surveyor's certificates."[4]

John Cozzens built the first cabin in the new settlement near the center of the present city, but after the townsite was surveyed, the people began to build on their town lots near the foot of the hills.[5]

The task of procuring logs for the cabins was arduous and difficult. The lower slopes of Montpelier Canyon were devoid of timber and the settlers were forced to construct long stretches of rough mountain roads, crudely bridging the creek in several places. This problem was partially erased when, on one occasion while riding along the barren foothills, Joseph Phelps found a narrow ravine about two miles north of Montpelier which opened into pine-covered canyons from which logs were much more easily procured. The ravine has been called Joe's Gap since that time.[6]

The pioneer cabin was a far cry from what we think of as a comfortable home today. Yet to those families living in the brush shelters and sleeping in the wagon boxes, it appeared a mansion of the first class.

Sarah Jane Burgoyne left an excellent description of one of the better

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1. Billington, Ray. op. cit., p. 540.
2. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
3. Swensen, Mary J. Interview.
4. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
5. Jenson, Andrew. A History of Montpelier Ward. (not numbered and hereafter referred to as Montpelier Ward)

Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.

of these early cabins:

> A one-room log house with a dirt roof (which leaked when it rained), hay floor, and one tiny window with two panes, 8 x 10, set in logs with no frame work. (Most early cabins were windowless or had just a hole covered with oil cloth or some other material). The door was of crude planks with a wooden latch operated by a buckskin string which was pulled in at night for a lock. The inside of the logs were whitewashed. The bed was made of small poles being bored into the wall, fastened by wooden pegs to the rough board sides. Then pegs were driven into the 3 x 4 pine timber and to this strips of rawhide were laced, which held up a mattress filled with straw. Beneath the bed, built on the same plan, was the baby bed. The bedding consisted of army blankets, buffalo robes, and a few home-made quilts. The stove was a step stove and the furniture was a home-made pine table and chairs of sawed logs. Some chairs were home-made from cottonwood, hollowed out with rawhide seats. Most of the dishes were tin-iron pots and pans.[1]

The food was cooked on open fireplaces or in bake ovens covered with hot coals. Several years passed before the first real stove was brought into the settlement.[2] Although there was generally something to eat, there was not much variety in the meals. They ate home-ground mush of wheat, potatoes, fish, some cured pork, beef, various wild meats, and "Mormon gravy," made from milk, flour and grease with an occasional vegetable tossed in. Lumpy dick was a pudding dessert made with milk and lumps of thickening. During the autumn the wild berries were picked and made into jams and jellies. Tea cost $7.00 a pound and sugar sold for $1.25 a pound.[3]

Clothing was almost entirely the product of the home and a sewing machine was a precious item. In the early 70's, James Holmes traded three good cows for the luxury of one.[4]

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1. Williams, Sarah Burgoyne. Autobiographical Sketch, not numbered.
2. Sarah Burgoyne Williams stated that her mother, Mary Ann Burgoyne, had the first stove, but Hyrum Holmes claimed that honor for his father, James Holmes.
3. Williams, Sarah Burgoyne. op. cit.
4. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 12.

> In the winter the men protected their feet by wearing heavy wool socks over which the hide from the hind legs of beef cattle, taken several inches above and below the hock joint with its natural bend to fit the foot and leg of the wearer, was drawn with the hair-side turned inward.[1]

Every family had its spinning wheel on which wool was prepared for the weavers. Each community had its experts in the art of weaving. Among the most prominent were Mrs. Sarah Phelps, Mrs. Elsie Jensen, and Edward Burgoyne. From this homespun cloth most all the clothing for the community was made. On occasional trips to Evanston or Salt Lake a bolt of "store" cloth was purchased and brought home, from which suits for the men were made, every one just alike.[2]

The tailor for the village was a Mr. Ahlbum, who had been employed as tailor to the King of Sweden. When suits were to be made, Mr. Ahlbum would live with the family until his task was completed in order to have the members of the household present for their numerous "fittings."[3]

The economy of these first several years was necessarily simple. The principle of self-sufficiency prevailed, which was made necessary by the distance from the markets over almost impassable roads and the lack of capital in the valley.[4]

Farming

Though the virgin soil "responded nobly to their efforts to obtain bread," being in the extremely high altitude of 5,946 feet made it difficult to grow the usual agricultural products, since frosts persisted late into the summer and came again early in the fall. One settler

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1. Ibid., p. 12.
2. Ibid., p. 14.
3. Ibid.
4. Evans, John Henry. op. cit., p. 278.

described the climate as "nine months of winter and three months damn late in the fall."

Some acres of wheat and oats were harvested in the autumn of 1864 but crops planted on the lower ground were frozen.[1] In describing their hopes and disappointments, Anne Marie Bunney Perkins wrote:

> The wheat would grow until there were large, beautiful heads and it would look like we would have a splendid crop and then the frost would come and freeze it all and the men would have to go to Cache Valley and work for wheat and have it made into flour.[2] Then they would bring it home by ox-team, which was very difficult. It was a hard trip and would take a long time when conditions were best, but often times the snow would come before they could get through the canyons and the roads, which were not much more than trails, would get so muddy that it made it very dangerous over the rough mountains. There was no flour mill nearer than Cache Valley.

Those not able to obtain flour from Cache Valley had to grind the frozen kernels through a coffee mill and make their bread from this coarse flour. "The quality was not desirable and the taste not the kind to carry a premium, still like the 'fellers owl' it beat nothing all to pieces."[3]

In addition to the frosts and long winters, the farmers had to contend with the grasshoppers. Beginning 1867 and continuing for six consecutive years, these insects ravaged the crops. For some reason the vicinity of Montpelier proved more attractive to the grasshoppers than did those areas to the west. The citizens of St. Charles reported better crops in 1869 than in previous years, but commented that the "grasshoppers as usual"

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1. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
2. Thomas Sleight stated that wheat cost $5.00 a bushel in Cache Valley at this time.
3. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.

had destroyed the grain crop at Montpelier. There was, however, a good potato yield.[1]

These adversities discouraged a few families and they moved away, but the hardships and cold weather simply whetted the ingenuity of most of them, and they began to discover ways of bettering their conditions.

Farming methods were quite primitive at first. Grain was cut with a cradle which was a scythe with five wooden fingers that bowed at the same angle as the scythe. The grain was cut, laid in a swathe, raked into bundles, and tied, using twisted strands of grain for twine.[2] After being shocked and dried, it was threshed by hand with flails or laid within an enclosure on hard, clean earth and horses driven over it to tramp out the kernels. The grain was cleaned on a windy day by throwing it into the air and letting the wind blow the chaff away. After a few years a wind machine which did this cleaning when turned by hand was brought into the community.[3]

About 1870, Harley Mowrey brought the first mowing machine into town and in the early 70's Robert Gee and Jed Merrill purchased a mower for custom cutting with a dropper attachment for cutting grain. Christian Hogenson was the owner of the first binder, a clumsy, unsuccessful machine which used fine wire for tying the bundles. Later Morris Phelps purchased a more successful machine which elevated the grain to a table where a man bound it and dropped it onto the ground.[4] These machines were replaced by self-binders, headers, and finally the combine.

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1. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
2. Perkins, Anne Marie Bunney. loc. cit.
3. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 16.
4. Ibid., p. 16.

Irrigation

Until the Saints arrived at Great Salt Lake extensive irrigation was unknown anywhere in the Anglo-Saxon world. Yet within a brief period they not only devised a workable means of alloting water but developed a completely new legal concept to govern their enterprise. Brigham Young had outlined this plan when he first reached Great Salt Lake and it was placed in legal form when the territorial legislature acted upon the matter in 1852. The law read:

> The county court shall have control of all timber, water privileges, or any water course or creek, to grant mill sites and exercise such powers as in their judgment shall best preserve the timber and subserve the interest of the settlement in the distribution of water for irrigation or other purposes.[1]

Thus the good of the community was placed before the interests of the individual. Such was the policy followed at Montpelier. The fields adjoined an irrigation ditch connected with Montpelier Creek. The main ditches were planned by a committee and built cooperatively by all who used them, each man providing labor in proportion to the amount of ground to be irrigated. Every man was then responsible for his own laterals.

Rigid controls governed the use of water. Each main irrigation ditch was supervised by a church committee which apportioned out the water as it was needed for efficient agriculture.[2]

In 1895, in its third session, the Idaho Legislature passed the Irrigation District Law, which provided that the owners of land susceptible of irrigation from the same source might organize themselves into an irrigation

1. Billington, Ray. op. cit., pp. 541-542.
2. Ibid., p. 541.

district. They could then construct or acquire by purchase or otherwise the necessary works and facilities to irrigate their lands. The powers to distribute and govern the use of the water and the power to conduct the business of the district was to be vested in a board of directors elected by the land owners. This law, with modifications, remains in force today.[1]

In accordance with this law the Montpelier Irrigation Company was incorporated in April, 1898, with John Cozzens, W. W. Clark, E. L. Burgoyne, Christian Hogensen, F. M. Winters, William T. Perkins, and Thomas Danks as incorporators. The capital of this company was $10,000.00, to be divided into 10,000 shares of $1.00 each share.[2] This company controlled most of the water from Montpelier Creek and its tributaries.

A settler named John wrote to the Deseret News: "A new field is going to be fenced in next summer about a mile south from here, containing over 2,000 acres of the very best land. In order to bring this land under cultivation, we have to make a ditch about eight miles long to get the water from Bear River."[3] The users of this ditch incorporated themselves into the Preston-Montpelier Irrigation Company.

Livestock

The tall lush meadow grass and the feed-covered slopes of numerous hills attracted the stockmen from the beginning. The number of livestock increased steadily until in 1878 it was pointed out in Stake Priesthood Meeting that there existed a definite need for an agent to find markets for

1. Hobson, G. C. The Idaho Digest and Blue Book, p. 312.
2. Taken from a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation in the possession of Clarence Swenson, secretary of the Montpelier Irrigation Company.
3. Deseret News, March 29, 1876.

the beef of the valley.[1]

Herds of cattle were driven by way of Bear River or through Laketown Canyon to the Randolph, Utah, area where they were fattened preparatory to shipping them to Evanston, Wyoming. Much of the meat supply for the mines of Wyoming and Montana was supplied by the stockmen in the valley.[2] An early cattle buyer was J. L. Underwood who lived in Montpelier for many years.[3]

In September, 1884, the residents of the valley found it necessary to hold a meeting in Paris to organize a stockgrowers' association for protection against thieves. At this meeting E. N. Austin, Walter Hoge and Amos Wright were appointed as a committee to draw up a set of by-laws for the organization.[4]

Seventeen years after the railroad reached Montpelier, the stockmen of the valley met in Montpelier to effect a permanent organization which would aid in marketing and grazing problems and which gave stockmen a greater voice in legislative matters. The first officers were: J. R. Brennan, President; H. H. Dalryample, First Vice President; Old Transtrum, Second Vice President; G. C. Gray, Secretary; and M. J. Davis, Treasurer. Montpelier was designated as the official headquarters for the association.[5]

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1. Stake Priesthood Minutes No. 1, pp. 10-11.
2. Rich, Dan C., Interview.
3. Underwood, Mrs. J. L. Early Days in Bear Lake and Oneida Counties, p. 1.
4. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 82.
5. Montpelier Examiner, March 29, 1899.

Ecclesiastical development

To move large groups of people into virgin territory and successfully colonize those areas required great organizational skill. The organization that evolved from the frontier experiences of the Mormon Church proved very adequate to meet the needs.

From 1863 to 1869, Charles C. Rich, the Apostle, seems to have exercised full ecclesiastical power over the Bear Lake region, "appointing presiding Elders or Bishops over the settlements," and otherwise directing the affairs of the people.[1]

In 1869 a stake organization was completed with David P. Kimball as Stake President and a High Council of 12 as advisors. Harley Mowrey was the High Council representative from Montpelier.[2] President Kimball moved away in 1874, and Apostle Rich acted as Stake President until 1877, when William Budge was appointed as the president with James H. Hart as first Counselor and George Osmond as second Counselor. Harley Mowrey continued as a member of the High Council.[3] The saints of Montpelier remained a part of Bear Lake Stake until 1917.

The stake was divided into wards, each of which was presided over by a bishop. As was noted earlier, John Cozzens had been ordained presiding elder of Montpelier in 1864, a position he held for ten years. The first year he directed the building of a log meeting house, 26 feet by 30 feet, so the people would have a place of worship and public gatherings. On November 24, 1867, Hyrum S. Phelps was appointed Clerk of the Montpelier

1. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 188.
2. Ibid., p. 190.
3. Ibid., p. 192. See Appendix III for a list of Bear Lake Stake presidents.

ward.[1]

The oldest auxiliary in the Church is the Relief Society. It had been organized in 1842 to look after the needs of the poor and to assist in strengthening the virtues of the community. The Montpelier Relief Society was organized on August 1, 1869, with Mrs. Sarah Phelps as president; Mrs. Harriet Cambell, first counselor; Mrs. Francis Elizabeth Bridges, second counselor; Mrs. Sarah Demming, secretary; and Mrs. Amy Turner, treasurer. The organization was effected by John Cozzens.[2]

During the first summers in Montpelier, the sisters would work gleaning the fields. After the regular threshing was done, theirs was done also, and in that way they started their wheat fund.[3]

To provide religious instruction for the 238 inhabitants, a Sunday School was organized in Montpelier on September 20, 1868. Charles H. Bridges Sr. was appointed superintendent. By 1876 there were 100 people in attendance under the supervision of John Bunney, assisted by others interested in the work.[4]

The leadership of the ward passed to Charles E. Robinson in the spring of 1874 when he was called from Georgetown and ordained the first bishop of Montpelier. F. M. Winters was ordained first counselor and Hyrum Phelps second counselor. Mr. Phelps moved away a short time later and was replaced by David Osborn.[5]

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1. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
2. Ibid.
3. Perkins, Anne Marie Bunney. loc. cit.
4. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
5. Montpelier Ward Historical Record Book C, 1895-1897. For a list of the bishops of Montpelier Ward see Appendix III.

On July 26, 1876, one year after Junius F. Wells, acting under instruction of Brigham Young, had organized the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association in Salt Lake City, a special meeting was held in the Montpelier school house. Under the direction of Milton H. Hardy and B. Morris Young, a Y.M.M.I.A. was organized with Frantz M. Winters as president, George Hillier as first counselor, Charles Bridges as second counselor and William Irving as secretary.[1] The purpose of the organization was to st strengthen the testimonies of the young men, but the scope of the program was broadened to include provision for recreational activities for the members.[2]

On April 30, 1879, an organization, embracing similar objectives for the young ladies, was effected. The first officers of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association in Montpelier were: Mrs. Emily A. Cozzens, president; Mrs. Abigail Osborn, first counselor; Miss Mary Holmes, second counselor; and Mrs. Sarah Jane Cozzens, secretary. "Going to Mutual" became an important expression in the language of the people and the young people in particular looked forward to the social event.

The Primary originated at Farmington, Utah, in August, 1878. "It was the result of the reflections of Aurelia S. Rogers, who perceived the need for weekday religious education of boys and girls."[3]

The movement spread to other parts of the Church and on May 21, 1879, the Primary Association was organized in Montpelier. Mrs. Annie Hillier was appointed as president, with Mrs. Ann Atkinson and Mrs. Martha Jane

1. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Ward.
2. Berrett, William E., The Restored Church, p. 514.
3. Ibid., p. 516.

Robinson as counselors, and Miss Jane Osborn as secretary.[1]

At a special meeting held at Montpelier, May 12, 1884, the 79th Quorum of Seventies was organized. All the seventies of the valley living on the east side of Bear River were to be members. The seven presidents were: Charles H. Bridges, John Bunney, Christian Hogensen, Carl F. Hellstrom, Herbert Horsley, Charles R. Clark and Brigham L. Tippetts.[2]

The various church organizations offered opportunities for the participation of everyone in some activity or another. There was little time or need to feel left out or to feel relegated to the position of a mere spectator.

The beginnings of government

Politically and geographically, the settlers of Bear Lake Valley did not know where they belonged. The United States surveys and territorial boundaries were unknown to them, and they believed they were a part of the state of Utah. The territory of Idaho had been organized in 1863. Oneida County was created, occupying all the territory now comprised in Oneida, Bannock, Bingham, Fremont, Bear Lake and a part of Cassia, Blaine and Custer counties. A set of county officials, appointed by the governor, had arrived at Soda Springs, the county seat, and sent their tax collector to Bear Lake to tax the citizens. The people, believing they were in Utah, refused to recognize the Idaho official. Threats were made by him that he would assess the people and sell their property if they continued to refuse payment of taxes. Though considerable feelings were engendered, nothing more than words ensued. When in 1872 the territorial line developed the

1. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
2. Ibid.

fact that the major portion of the valley was in Idaho, the settlers affiliated with Oneida County until they succeeded in getting the legislature to create Bear Lake County in 1875.[1]

Since the valley was first considered to be a part of Utah, the 1864 Legislative Assembly passed an act providing for the organization of Richland County; Judge Thomas divided the county into the precincts of St. Charles, Bloomington, Paris, North Creek (Liberty), Clover Creek (later divided into Montpelier and Bennington precincts), Fish Haven and Fish Lake. David Savage was appointed prosecuting attorney; Franklin W. Young, County Clerk and recorder; Samuel H. B. Smith, Sheriff; and Joseph C. Rich, Surveyor. The selectmen were: John A. Hunt, David B. Dillie and Evan M. Greene. St. Charles was made the county seat.[2]

The officials of Montpelier were: Evan M. Green, Justice of the Peace; Joseph M. Phelps, Constable; John Cozzens, Road Supervisor; and John Clark, Pound Keeper.[3]

Apostle Charles C. Rich represented the county in the Legislative Assembly and the county received some appropriations of money for building roads.[4]

The act creating and organizing Bear Lake County was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the territory of Idaho, January 5, 1875. The county commissioners appointed and commissioned by this act were Jonathan Pugmire, Jr., Edward Austin and J. C. Rich.

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1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
2. The Deseret News, Wednesday, August 3, 1864.
3. Jenson, Andrew. Manuscript History of Bennington Ward, p. 3.
4. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.

At their first meeting the county commissioners appointed temporary county officers to serve from January to June, 1875, when the first election in Bear Lake County was held. The following officers were elected:

County Commissioners	N. C. Davis from Dingle Thomas Sleight from Paris C. E. Robinson from Montpelier
Clerk, Auditor and Recorder	J. C. Rich, Paris
Sheriff	Henry Horne, Paris
Probate Judge	George Osmond, Bloomington
Assessor	William Hulme, Bloomington
Treasurer	Charles C. Rich, Paris
Surveyor	E. N. Austin, Liberty
Coroner	William Broomhead, Bloomington
Montpelier Precinct - Justice of the Peace	David Osborn
Montpelier Constable	John Cozzens[1]

For two decades most of the people in the valley held membership in the Mormon Church, and though the offices of secular government existed, the de facto government was theocratic with the center of authority for the people of Montpelier and the rest of the valley at Paris, headquarters for the Bear Lake Stake and place of residence for several stake officials.

> Once each month these presiding stake authorities and the bishops and higher priesthood of the several wards met in stake meetings. In these meetings were discussed problems of vital and every day interest to the people of the entire valley.[2]

In one meeting the advisability of planting fall wheat was discussed; at another the problem of transportation was considered with a committee appointed to study the problems of building a bridge over Bear River and to select its site. Each bishop was to carry back to his ward a call for support in its erection.[3]

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1. Annual Financial Report of Bear Lake County, Idaho, 1919.
2. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 29.
3. Ibid., p. 30.

In 1877 at a stake priesthood meeting, a Board on Agriculture and Manufacturing was appointed to encourage the interests of these businesses. The directors were: President, Robert Price; William Hulme, J. U. Stucki, Y. B. Spencer, Charles E. Robinson, Mosiah Booth and W.R.H. Stewart. The Secretary was Frity Johnson. Each community was encouraged to select its own industry, providing that it did not clash with one already started.[1]

In 1878 the necessity of establishing a Board of Trade, empowered to regulate prices and production, was discussed. Each store was to have two representatives on this board.[2]

In 1879, four years after Bear Lake became a county with taxing powers for educational purposes, President Hart brought up in priesthood meeting the desirability of building a church-run high school at Paris. Presidents Rich, Hart and Osmond were selected as a committee to select the site.[3]

The prosperous flocks and herds of the valley became a temptation to a roving nest of bandits whose hideouts were located in the wild canyons and mountain retreats to the east. On one occasion when they raided Montpelier where a store was robbed, a clerk shot dead, and some livestock stolen, it was the Church leader, Apostle Rich, who sent a posse after them.[4]

At a meeting in 1881, President William Budge discouraged the sale of land to Gentiles and in 1882 he spoke out against hiring Gentile teachers in the schools of the valley. He called for the censure of Gentile store-

1. Bear Lake Historical Record Book C., p. 3.
2. Ibid., p. 11.
3. Ibid., p. 39.
4. Wilson and Driggs. The White Indian Boy, pp. 207-212. For a full account of this episode see Appendix IV.

owners who refused to sign a petition against the adverse legislation included in the Edmunds Bill, which was directed against the Mormons.[1]

The people also received advice on politics from their leaders and expenses of delegates to the state conventions were paid by donations from the various wards.[2] On one occasion President Budge said, "It does not become Latter Day Saints to quarrel and contend with each other concerning points of doctrine or anything else. When we have an election I would like to see it conducted without an opposition vote. Let us lay the foundation of unity and build upon it. Men who come out and oppose the Priesthood will lose the spirit."[3]

> Charles C. Rich believed strongly, first, that people should learn to control themselves so that there would be little need for control from the outside; and second, that it was a bad thing for the 'brethren' to go to court with their disagreements, because it was expensive to do so and because it engendered ill-will. . . . In accordance with the Apostle Rich's uniform advice about not going to law, the men took their differences to him directly. . . . All disagreements of any consequence that arose were disposed of out of court.[4]

This was made possible because of the rule of obedience which was as follows: The President of the Church and the apostles were prophets, seers, and revelators to the membership of the Church. It was through them that the "mind and will of the Lord" was given to the people. To resist the teachings and advice of these men, therefore, was to resist God. Since these people had abandoned the creeds of their fathers for the idea that present revelation is necessary, it would have been highly inconsistent on their part to deny that very principle. And so, as a rule, the Mormons

1. Bear Lake Stake Historical Record Book C., pp. 62-73.
2. Ibid., p. 80.
3. Ibid., p. 89.
4. Evans, John Henry., op. cit., pp. 287-289.

of this period yielded rather willing obedience to these spiritual authorities. The practice of this principle contributed in no small measure to the success of the Mormon settlements during their beginning years.[1]

With an influx of non-Mormon population and the subsequent growth of a more complex society, the theocratic government slowly broke down and was replaced by regular political and judicial government. This problem will be more completely discussed in the following chapter.

Early business development

For the first decade of Montpelier's existence thousands of emigrants passed through the settlement on their way to Oregon following the famous Oregon Trail. As late as July 19, 1899, the Montpelier Examiner reported:

> During the week the town has been filled with emigrant teams going west. On Tuesday more than a dozen of them were lined up in front of the post office. For the most part these travellers did not seem to have any great surplus of money, though there were some pretty good trains. They were enroute west looking for a suitable place to locate. Most of them were heading for Oregon and Washington.

These emigrants afforded opportunities for trading and visiting; in fact, they were "about the only source of supply for groceries and dry goods" for the first few years.[2] The Oregon pioneers' needs for fresh vegetables, salt, clothing and repairs on their outfits provided ample opportunity for barter and, in some cases, left needed hard cash in the hands of Montpelier citizens.[3]

The Indians also provided opportunity for trade.

> When the warm weather came the Indians came also; the Bannocks and Snakes from the North, and the Utes from

1. Ibid., pp. 276-277.
2. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
3. Passey, Earl. op. cit., pp. 25-26.

> the South. The Bannocks were a fine looking lot of men, many of them were six feet tall, every muscle well developed and as straight as the arrows he carried. They wore no clothing except a breech cloth. Occasionally the scalp of a conquered foe dangled from a belt. (They) bartered robes, furs, buckskins, and moccasins. Buckskin breeches, beaver vests and caps and antelope shirts with beaded moccasins were the 'Sunday dress' of some of our most fashionable dudes.[1]

The first stores in Montpelier profited from the above trade and were dependent on it for their success. A Mr. Thurman erected the first store in Montpelier during the year 1865 or 1866; it was located near the creek on Fourth Street. Shortly afterwards it was purchased by Fred Teesdeal of Ogden, Utah.[2] The only death attributed to Indians was the death of Fred Weisner, hired by Teesdeal to run the Montpelier store, as he protected the store from a robbery one night.[3]

Edward Burgoyne, who arrived in Montpelier with his family during the summer of 1864, had been a weaver in Wales; his wife, Mary Ann had been a candy maker. The early years as a weaver and farmer in Montpelier were not very profitable and Mary Ann began to make candy, which she displayed in the window of her home and sold to the emigrants travelling the Oregon Trail, the Indians, and the neighbors. The business soon required 300 pounds of candy a week. She also began making butter which she stored in ferkins in a cool cellar until sold.[4]

Becoming discouraged with weaving and farming and seeing the success of Mary Ann's enterprises, Edward Burgoyne took up storekeeping about 1870,

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1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
2. Holmes, Hyrum. Record Book.
3. Perkins, Anne Marie Bunney. loc. cit. For a full account of this incident, see Appendix V.
4. Williams, Sarah Burgoyne. op. cit.

his first store being one room of his two-room log home located on the southwest corner of Garfield and Fourth Streets. His first business was the usual barter with the other members of the colony, the travellers of the Trail and the Indians. He carried the Indians on open account. They would take their needs and mark their accounts on the under side of the board steps, then in the spring they would come in with their pelts to settle their accounts.[1]

The mines of western Wyoming offered a good market for Montpelier produce, and as the crews working on the first transcontinental railroad drew closer to Promontory Point, the market expanded. Eggs, butter, fresh vegetables, pelts, salt, etc. were freighted down the trail following Bear River to Corrinne, Utah, a supply depot for the railroad, or east to the mines or to Evanston, Wyoming, nearest railroad trading point. From these areas Mr. Burgoyne and other freighters would bring merchandise useful to the people of Bear Lake.[2]

An interesting account of freighting produce to these areas appeared in the Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907:

> Lorenzo (son of Edward and Mary Ann Burgoyne), at the age of 13, commenced the task of freighting this produce and salt, which was then crudely manufactured at the springs near here, to South Pass City, Miners Delight, and Atlantic City. He took heavy loads with four horse teams over this road, returning with loads of such goods as the settlers necessarily had to have. It was a tiresome and dangerous journey, there being few houses along the way, and none whatever between Cokeville and the Big Sandy stage station, near what is now Green River. The Indians were so bad that no fire could be made at night, lest they be attracted by the light.

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1. Ibid. I also gained information from interviewing Mrs. Genevieve Hess, daughter of Sarah Burgoyne Williams.
2. Smuin, Winifred. Interview.

> He slept at night by the side of his goods, which must be protected; arose the next morning to care for his horses, cook his own meager breakfast and departed on his way, through dust, over rut-river roads to his journey's end. The boy carried on this life through ten long years.
>
> By about 1878 enough stock had been accumulated to build a store right next to the house. This sufficed only for a few years when the business was moved "uptown."

John Cozzens, William Severn and David Savage sawed the first lumber in the valley, using a whip saw to perform the task. The lumber was used in the Paris meeting house and the slabs were used for benches.[1]

In 1865 James Holmes erected a saw pit in Montpelier where rough boards were sawed for use in the floors and walls of Montpelier homes.[2] The lumber was sawed "by one man standing in a pit some 12 to 14 feet long and about six feet deep, and another man on top with a cross cut saw, sawing up and down." A Mr. Raymond had a shingle mill at the mouth of Montpelier Canyon. He made broom handles in addition to shingles.[3]

Nathan Davis constructed the first saw mill in the valley at St. Charles, "one of the kind that the saw went up one day and came down the next." This was followed by a mill using a circular saw erected in Paris Canyon by George W. Stirrine.[4] The first regular saw mill at Montpelier was erected by Hyrum Phelps in 1874.[5]

Francis M. Pomeroy and George W. Stirrine built the first flour mill, "if it could be dignified by that name," at Paris in the spring of 1865. The mill stones were 18 inches in diameter and were made from native rock.

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1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
2. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 16.
3. Perkins, Anne Marie Bunney. loc. cit. I have not been able to establish a date for this enterprise.
4. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
5. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.

"This was an improvement on the coffee mill and, while the quantity of flour increased, the quality remained about the same."[1] Phinias Cook built the next grist mill at Swan Creek which, though small, produced a good quality flour. This was followed by the Mercley mill at St. Charles, erected by David Taylor of Salt Lake City, with French burrs, good bolts, and which gave the settlers good service. The parent of the Paris Roller Mill was a smaller mill built at the mouth of Paris Canyon by Apostle Rich. Later N. H. Hoges constructed a mill at Laketown and the first flour mill at Montpelier was erected by William Quayle in 1891.[2]

J. M. Davis and associates of Montpelier found some rich salt deposits at Crow Creek on the Star Valley road and erected a salt works at that place. A smaller concern was found at the head of Thomas Fork, worked by John Stevens. The salt not used at home was freighted out of the valley.[3]

Montpelier's first blacksmith shop was owned and operated by William Teeples.[4]

In 1874 the Latter Day Saint Church established what was called the United Order. Having been given some leeway in the form of the Order he wished to adopt, Charles C. Rich chose the most conservative form and inaugurated the Cooperative Plan for Bear Lake.[5]

After organiztion each community was able to decide what cooperatives it would establish and what businesses it would conduct, the only prohibition being that it should not choose an industry that would clash with one already established. This, of course, did not prohibit some duplication if it proved feasible.[6]

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1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 165.
6. Ibid., p. 167.

The largest and most prosperous cooperative was the Paris Cooperative Institution, composed of 200 shareholders, which conducted, in addition to other businesses, a boot and shoe factory, tannery, harness factory, planing-lathe, and shingle mill, which made home-made shoes unnecessary and which provided proper wood for furniture.[1]

The only cooperative enterprise evident in Montpelier was the Co-op Mercantile, located on Fourth Street, which was later sold to Edward Burgoyne.[2]

The United Order officers of Montpelier were: President, Charles E. Robinson; Vice President, John Cozzens; Secretary, John Lasuer; Directors, Hyrum S. Phelps, David Osborn, James Holmes and Henry H. Dairymple.[3]

Early roads

A pressing problem for the citizens of Montpelier and the other settlers of the valley was the construction of roads to link the valley settlements together and to link them with the Utah cities. The Oregon Trail offered little in this respect to Montpelier settlers, since it led away from the Mormon heart land or at best could be travelled to Soda Springs where the Utah-bound traveller turned south.

During the first year or two the main arteries of communication with Cache Valley were the difficult Emigration Canyon Road or the longer route by way of Bear River, as it rounds the northern end of the Bear River Range at Sheep Rock and narrowly misses running its course to the Pacific.

Then Joseph C. Rich, with a group of men and 20 wagons, built the first wagon road out of the valley. The route was by way of Laketown

1. Bancroft. op. cit., p. 549.
2. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 26.
3. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 272.

through Cottonwood Canyon to Strawberry Valley, thence to the Hardware Ranch on Blacksmith Fork and south to Ogden River, which led to Huntsville and Ogden. They were 30 days in making the crude road. Most of the trade during these first years was freighted from Salt Lake and Ogden via this road.[1]

When the Union Pacific Railroad reached Evanston, Wyoming, that city became the main railroad trading point for Montpelier and remained so until the advent of the Oregon Short Line. Montpelier freighters could reach Evanston by following the Bear River or they could proceed to the south end of the valley and cross to Bear River by way of Laketown Canyon. In following the river directly they passed over a toll road built by the Phelps brothers.[2]

In 1868 snow blocked the Huntsville road and the settlers turned to Logan Canyon. This road was built in connection with the citizens from Cache Valley. Bishop Peter Maughan was in charge of their portion of the road, having as high as 270 men working. The two groups met at Ricks Spring on a Sunday, where they held a joint meeting. This road directly connected St. Charles with Logan. Evidently this route did not prove satisfactory and in 1880 the Bear Lake people worked a road through from Garden City.[3] The cost of passing through four toll gates on the road going one way was 80 cents.[4]

Joseph C. Rich noted that during the years the valley was under the jurisdiction of the Utah government some appropriations for road construction

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1. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
2. Ibid.
3. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 101.
4. Bear Lake Historical Record Book C, p. 48.

were supplied by the Utah Legislative Assembly. After Bear Lake County, Idaho was created, three road supervisors were appointed and each man, subject to tax, either donated cash of $4.00 or labor of two days.[1] These provisions proved to be inadequate so the church officers called on the people to cooperate together for purposes of road improvement.[2]

Heavy snows and high spring water made the road job very difficult. The short journey from Montpelier to Paris, through the marshy bottom lands, was especially difficult. A writer, calling himself "Yuba dam," left the following vivid and humorous account of this trip:

> ... I felt as though trouble was something of the past and had just commenced to enjoy my ride, when I noticed my driver was making for what seemed to me to be a lake six or eight miles wide; on asking for the name of the lake, imagine my surprise and horror to find that this was the overflow from sloughs and rivers which we must drive through in order to reach our destination. Pointing to a black speck far out in the water, my driver informed me that it was the bridge over Ovid Creek and if he could reach it in safety he thought the water was lower on the other side. So, with the water running over the dashboard and with our feet on a level with our heads, we made for the bridge, which had the appearance of being the gable end of a house floating in the water. After considerable trouble we reached the bridge in safety and left it in sorrow, for in making the descent our horse went out of sight while the single tree broke and the next instant found my companion in water up to his arms, holding on to the horse with no small amount of fright. After the horse became quiet I fished up the shafts and with a small rope the driver bound up the break and once more we went floating along. On reaching the home stretch, I caught sight of another object which seemed to be a large ferry boat, and was given to understand that 'that was Bear River bridge and if we could only find some way of telling where the banks of the river were we would reach it.' 'Otherwise,' said my friend, 'Hell will be to pay.' I thought so too and assisted him with my faith and prayers that he might miss the river and strike the bridge. The prayer took and the bridge was reached in safety, where we took stock of the outfit and found everything in a better condition than expected. Only 300 yards more of water lay between us and

1. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 103.
2. Montpelier Ward Minutes of Priesthood Meeting, May 27, 1894.

> dry ground, but deeper than any we had yet passed through. After we had passed over two-thirds of this and as I was on the point of complimenting myself on not getting wet, the tug broke at a point where the water ran over the horse's back, the driver shouted that the horse was drowning and told me to jump, which I did, lighting on my side. I struggled to my feet, finding myself in water just up to my neck. Of course in less time than it takes to tell it we had cut the horse loose and got his head above water, after which we waded and finally got horse, buggy and ourselves to shore just as the shades of darkness began to cover things up. Harness mending was then the order of the evening. Then with chattering teeth and a buggy full of water, we made the best time on record to 'Jones' Hotel' where we ordered dry clothes and a room with a furnace in it. . . . The best way to go from Paris to Montpelier is via Evanston and Granger. The brethren think the roads will be passable by the first of January, 1886, if they have an early freeze; otherwise the next time I have occasion to travel this road I won't travel it.[1]

From 1864 to 1868, John Cozzens maintained a ferry across Bear River near present day Bern. By 1868, Elder Edwin N. Austin of Liberty wrote " . . . A good bridge is erected over Bear River, west of Montpelier, and another across the outlet of the lake between Montpelier and Ovid. . ."[2]

These must have been temporary bridges since in 1876 David Osborn wrote to the Deseret News from Montpelier:

> ". . . Our county commissioners have taken into consideration the necessity of building a permanent bridge over Bear River, on the road from here to Paris. They have constructed a pile driver and have let the contract to Messrs. Fay and Jost to build a pile bridge which they are busily engaged in building.[3]

The construction of the Utah Power and Light Canal and other drainage projects in addition to higher grades eventually made this journey relatively

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1. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 103.
2. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
3. Deseret News, March 17, 1876. In a compilation by Mrs. J. L. Underwood, it is stated that the bid for the bridge was $125.00.

easy, though the water and frost still present nagging maintenance problems.

Mail

One of the major problems of any frontier society is communication with the more settled areas. The settlers of Bear Lake were no exception. They were anxious for news of the Civil War, and happenings in the lower settlements as well as letters from loved ones and news in general.

There appears to be a number of conflicts as to who really began the mail service for the people in this area. One writer suggests that anyone leaving the valley for supplies "would bring back with him all of the available mail so that, in reality, there were many people who participated in early mail service."[1] Joseph C. Rich claims to have carried the first mail on snowshoes from Franklin to Paris. He also takes credit for bringing the first mail by way of Gentile Valley.[2] The first winter mail of any regularity was carried by snowshoes from Franklin to Paris in the winter of 1864-65. This was accomplished by one carrier from Franklin meeting a Bear Lake carrier on the divide between the valleys and exchanging mail. Bud Thomas, a Mr. Woodward, and a Mr. Buckley performed this service from Franklin. Early Bear Lake carriers included Joseph C. Rich and Edward Patterson.[3]

By December, 1868, the government had established a mail service from Cache Valley to Bear Lake Valley. During the summer horses were used and in the winter the carriers used snowshoes. The trip in the latter fashion took two days. There was a dugout near the summit where the weary mail carrier could rest and spend the night. The settlers paid 20 cents for each newspaper brought over the mountains.[4] Samuel Humphreys and James Collins

1. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 105.
2. Rich, Joseph C. op. cit.
3. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 106.
4. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.

may have been the first official mail carriers for the government.[1]

In the fall of 1868, the Post Office Department awarded a one-year contract to Apostle Charles C. Rich. This was a regular weekly service with Thomas Rich as the carrier. This weekly service was, apparently, stepped up to a semi-weekly service since the Deseret News of December 6, 1871, states the semi-weekly service stopped because the mail carrier had not been paid by the contractor for six months and had been forced to sell his cows in order to pay those serving under him. The contractor, a Mr. Howe of Corinne, Utah, had apparently received the money from the government but had neglected to pay his employees.

The question of regular mail service was answered when the Oregon Short Line Railroad reached the valley. By 1902 there were 16 post offices in the county, all receiving their mail via Montpelier and this did not include those Utah settlements as far south as Randolph.[2]

The first post office to serve Montpelier was in the home of James Holmes. His wife, Harriet Phelps Holmes, was the first postmaster.[3] In 1869 Morris Phelps was appointed postmaster and the post office was located in a two-story building constructed by Mr. Phelps.[4] By 1883 the location had been moved to Dr. C. A. Hoover's Drugstore on the southwest corner of Lincoln and Fourth Streets; it was later moved "downtown." David Osborn was postmaster for 14 years.[5]

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1. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 107.
2. Montpelier Examiner, December 26, 1902.
3. Holmes, Hyrum, op. cit.
4. Phelps, Margaret. Sketch of the Life of Joseph Morris Phelps.
5. Progressive Men of Idaho, p. 338.

On Monday, November 6, 1871, the Deseret Telegraph Company completed its line to Paris, connecting with the main line in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tuesday, November 7, the following telegram was sent:

> Paris, Rich County, November 7.
> President Brigham Young: The wire of the Deseret Telegraph Co. reached this place yesterday at 4:00 p.m., bringing the people of Bear Lake Valley into instant communications with the world of mankind. In view of our isolated situation, no people in the mountains can better appreciate telegraphic communications. We heartily congratulate you on the extension of the line and thank you for the labors in our behalf. May you live long,not only to extend telegraphic communication with the Saints in the mountains, but also to extend the principles of truth throughout the entire world, and overcome all your enemies.
>
> C. C. Rich[1]

Health problems

The medical services common to most of us were unknown to the settlers of Montpelier. Home remedies and faith were the primary treatment for all illnesses that afflicted the populace. "For common colds and other sicknesses in children a rhubarb syrup was used."[2]

The usual plagues of that day swept through the community periodically, bring death and sorrow. An unknown writer from Montpelier sent the following letter to the Deseret News on January 3, 1877:

> The destroyer has been at work in our little town to an alarming extent of late. In the short space of about two months we have borne off 16 of our number to the graveyard, 12 of this number being children who have fallen victim to the dreadful disease called diphtheria, or something of the nature. With the exception of a very few cases, it has baffled all the skill we have been able thus far to produce. It seems that if a cure is not effected before about the ninth day, that the croup sets

1. Deseret News, November 7, 1871.
2. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 133.

> in with it when it is almost sure to prove fatal. This is the worst scourge that has ever visited our settlement. There have been more deaths in the last two months than occurred in the four years preceding. It is thought by some to be contagious but it seems hard to determine whether it is or not. . . .

To aid the families in these trials, and especially to help the mothers at the time of childbirth, were the midwives. James Holmes' wife was the first midwife in Montpelier.[1] Mrs. Elizabeth Bridges, though she had not attended medical school, had learned through experience and was one of the most noted ones. The fact that she lost so few patients in childbirth was her chief recommendation. The heroic country doctor was no more noted for his willingness to sacrifice time and brave all weather than was she. After delivering a child she would stay all night, then return once a day for nine days to dress the baby and care for the mother. Her fee for this service was the modest sum of $2.50 if the family had it.[2] Another noted midwife was Mrs. Ann Hillier. The first children born in Montpelier were Almyra Holmes, daughter of James Holmes, born on August 14, 1864, and Jefferson Moroni Davis, son of Moroni Davis, born September 24 of the same year.[3]

The first doctor in Montpelier was Dr. C. A. Hoover. The exact date of his arrival is not known but it preceeded 1883. In addition to being a physician, he was also the local postmaster and ran a drugstore located on an uptown corner.[4]

Education

Education on the elementary level had its roots from the beginning. Public school was held in Paris the winter of 1864-65, taught by George Osmond and

1. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 133.
2. Bridges, Elgin. Interview.
3. Holmes, Hyrum. op. cit.
4. Bear Lake Democrat, May 18, 1883.

Joseph C. Rich.[1] In Montpelier school was held in private homes that first year until Christmas, when a log meeting house, 26 by 30 feet, was completed. For several years this structure served the community for all public purposes.[2]

In 1867 a log school house with a dirt floor was built near the church house. Crude tables with split logs for benches constituted the furnishings. The students wrote upon slates and teaching was done by recitation. A Miss Laker and Mrs. Robinson were the teachers that year. Their school was supported by a small tuition and they received their pay in produce and by boarding at the homes of the students - little change from early Massachusetts.[3]

In 1875 the county commissioners divided Bear Lake County into 12 school districts. Montpelier became district Number 10. Two mills on the dollar, the minimum allowed by law, were levied as a school tax. This was no doubt done because the people still felt that major responsibility for the schools lay in the hands of the Church. "For many years the schools in most districts were a combination of church and private and public schools. The Church provided the building, the pupils paid so much per month tuition, and the county provided a small amount to help out in one way or another. At first the amount was very meager."[4]

John Steele was the first teacher hired by District No. 10 and school was held for the first time during the winter months. For some reason this arrangement proved unsatisfactory and for several terms school was held again

1. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
2. Schoper, Mildred. Notes on the History of Education in Montpelier, p. 1.
3. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 50.
4. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 237.

during the warmer weather.[1]

The teachers used the first national McGuffy Readers and in addition to reading they taught writing, arithmetic, spelling and some geography. The following poem was used by an early teacher to help the students learn geography:

Stricklin, Stricklin is a very good man
He tries to teach us all he can.
Reading, writing and arithmetic
But never forgets to use the stick.
And when he does, he makes you dance
Out of Sweden, into France.
Over the hill and into Spain
And all the way back again.[2]

By 1876, seventy scholars were enrolled in the school which was then taught by Byron H. Allred and his wife.[3] The number of scholars outgrew the facilities and in 1877 the people completed a second school, 27 by 47 feet, and celebrated the accomplishment by holding a New Year's Day dance in it, commencing at 2:00 p.m. and closing at midnight.[4]

The school terms were of very short duration, often not exceeding three months, and, as one pioneer put it, the best qualification for being a teacher, was to be a stranger in town.[5] Thus the quality of education left much to be desired. Yet when we consider the tremendous problems the settlers faced during these first years, it is remarkable that education received much attention at all.

Recreation

Though the task of conquering a wilderness seemed endless, the pioneers found time for various forms of recreation. In some cases work such as

1. Schoper, Mildred. op. cit.
2. Phelps, William, Interview.
3. Jensen, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
4. Deseret News, January 16, 1878, from a letter by David Osborn, Jr. It is possible that this school was built on the public square.
5. Cruikshank, Fred, Interview.

quilting and cabin building was turned into fun by making it a quilting bee or a house raising. During the first months if one family had a special treat for dinner, they put out a white flag inviting others to share in their good fortune. After they became a little more settled, they took turns entertaining in their homes.[1] They developed forms of recreation that involved participation on the part of all who wanted to join the fun. Modern forms of commercial entertainment had not been developed.

From the beginning dancing was the main recreation and everybody joined in from the young to the old. They danced square dances, the plan quadrille, Virginia reel, schottische, waltz and other round dances. John Dunn, who played the violin, drums, mouth organ and symbols, was an orchestra all by himself. He was also very good at calling dances. A little later Hyrum Phelps became the town musician, his fiddle serving as the accompaniment for the winter dances.[2]

The saints carried their zeal for the dance too far into the night and in 1876 they adopted the advice of Brigham Young who thought it best to open the dances at about 2:00 p.m. and close at 10:00 p.m.[3] They did make one modification, however, by stretching the 10:00 p.m. until midnight.

In 1879, during a stake priesthood meeting, President Rich stated it was his desire that waltzing be dispensed with during the dancing season. R. S. Horne made some remarks deprecating round dances and the voice of the meeting was taken approving the end of round dances in this stake of Zion.[4]

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1. Genieve Hess, Interview.
2. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 10.
3. Deseret News, March 17, 1876.
4. Stake Priesthood Minutes, No. 1, p. 39.

During a meeting of Januay 3, 1880, the following rules governing dances were adopted:

> 1. Our dances shall be conducted under the dictation of the bishop, who will be held responsible for the manner in which dances are conducted in their respective wards.
>
> 2. Our dances shall be commenced and closed with prayer, and shall not be continued later than midnight.
>
> 3. We will not practice waltzes or other round dances in our assemblies.
>
> 4. Persons dancing out of turn shall be considered violators of good order, and may be requested to retire and, if persisted in, may be ejected.
>
> 5. We will not use liquor in our assemblies nor suffer any person inebriated to participate in the dance.
>
> 6. Swinging with one arm around the lady's waist shall not be permitted in our assemblies.
>
> 7. To swing a lady more than once against her will shall be considered ungentlemanly. To swing more than twice under any circumstances shall be considered disorderly and, if persisted in, the offenders may be requested to retire and, if necessary, may be ejected perforce.
>
> 8. Club dances or dances gotten up to make money, will not be countenanced unless specially ordered by the presidency or bishops.[1]

These rules were adopted by a unanimous vote.

By January 3, 1890, rule three was modified to permit two round dances if it became necessary.[2] The change was made because a dance hall not under Church jurisdiction was in operation in Montpelier.

The people of the valley were great lovers of theatricals. They travelled from all parts of the valley to see the plays presented and some of the associations put their plays on circuit.

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1. Ibid., p. 41-42.
2. Bear Lake Stake Historical Record Book C, pp. 62-67.

Thomas Sleight wrote the following about early dramatics in the valley:

> Our entertainments were varied, consisting of spelling classes, debating, dancing and the drama. The drama was the great attraction, the plays consisted chiefly of farces and comedies. Shakespeare was read some, but seldom put on the boards. An association was organized and known as the Paris Dramatic Association. Their stars were of no small magnitude, as the plaudits from their patrons affirmed. They took for their service the currency of the valley which, like the currency of our government, varied in looks and value. Every man was his own banker, and issued his own money, which consisted of wheat, oats, potatoes, turnips, wood, poles, lumber and shingles. If the enemies of the banker, which were the ground squirrel, grasshopper and frost, made a run on his bank, which they frequently did, and he had to stop paying the premium currency, his word was good for they knew he would try and resume business when warm weather returned.[1]

Montpelier's first theatrical group was organized by Edward Burgoyne, the meeting house being the theater of that day.[2] All members of the town who wanted to participate were invited to take part in the performances. Gideon Harmonsen, who had participated on the program with special numbers as a comedian during the first performance of "William Tell" at Paris, was probably active in this group.[3]

Horse racing was popular on the race track, situated just north of town. The track seldom lacked activity since the ranchers took great pride in their horses and eagerly pitted their steeds against any competitors in the valley.[4]

Another avenue of escape from the hard grind lay in the public festivities - especially the Fourth of July. There was the usual firing of guns

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1. Montpelier Examiner, January 3, 1908.
2. Swensen, Mary J. Interview.
3. Rich, Russell. op. cit., p. 38.
4. Phelps, William. Interview.

at sunrise and there was the "customary procession in which every one took part, with no spectators to comment on the parade."[1] The first Fourth of July celebration was in 1864 at Paris, with all the communities of the valley participating. The orator of the day was Joseph C. Rich, "who was easy of speech and ready of wit. A feast of good things and a dance at night in the candle light ended the festivities."[2]

One full block was reserved as a public square in Montpelier. On such days as Pioneer Day the people would gather from miles around, coming in their wagons or buggies, riding horses or walking. They would leave their rigs at the edge of the square and crowd in around the stand near the center of the bowery. There were trees to provide plenty of shade and plenty of open space for the sports of the afternoon. Community singing, recitations and orations were the order of the morning, and provided the patriotic spirit for the occasion. At noon the families spread out their dinners and visited until the games began. There were games for all--relay races, bicycle races, a fat man's race and many others until all were tired out and, of course, the dance followed in the evenings. Through the years the pattern changed very little.[3]

Another interesting pastime of the settlers was story telling. One of the most noteworthy stories told by Bear Lakers was the one concerning the Bear Lake Monster. These stories became so widespread that the monster received great notoriety throughout Utah. One printed article described the monster to be about 40 feet long and brown or greenish-brown in color. Its speed was estimated at 60 miles per hour. From its nose and mouth

1. Evans, John Henry. op. cit., p. 273.
2. Ibid.
3. Swenson, Mary J. Interview.

gushed streams of water and its huge ears, like slimy bushel baskets, jutted from the sides of its sleek head.

The Deseret News published the following article concerning this tale:

Editor News:

Dear Sir: The adventures I met with on my journey to the lurking place of the eighth wonder of creation were marvelous, but for the sake of brevity I will skip most of them.

I started from Franklin, Cache County, just as King Sol raised his refulgent countenance over the eastern mountains and extinguished the stars, and about 1:00 p.m. reached the 'dugway.' This 'dugway' is about half way between Franklin and Bear Lake Valley, It runs up the side of a precipitous mountain and comes so near being on the perpendicular that it almost seems a pity that it is not just a little more so, so that a block and tackle arrangement could be fixed at the top to raise and lower freight, living and otherwise. My horse had already shown signs of 'giving out,' which inspired me with some misgivings as to my ability to make the ascent; however, we went at it and I soon discovered that my misgivings were well founded. My only alternative was to get behind my vehicle and assist my noble steed by pushing vigorously, which I did. We formed an interesting group, I mean my horse, my vehicle and myself. Savage and Ottinger might have made considerable, had they been along, by introducing us into the foreground of a picture of the sublime scenery by which we were surrounded.

As we neared the top of the mountain and oftimes made a temporary halt, I gazed on the magnificent panorama which lay within the range of my enraptured vision. The towering stupendous mountains, the huge jutting rocks on every side and, stretching far away beneath, the narrow winding valley with its bubbling, rippling stream meandering along its bottom. In gazing upon this beautiful scene language would have been inadequate to express the feelings that animated me; in the language of the novelist they were more easily imagined than described. The sensations I experienced were mostly in the region of the digestive organs, for I felt very hungry. I felt deeply impressed with the idea that sublime scenery and victuals are much superior to sublime scenery without the victuals.

I reached Bear Lake Valley next day. There I had the felicity of meeting with and enjoying the society of

> our friends of monster notoriety. I would have called him our 'genial' or 'humorous' friend, but those phrases have already been used up by the papers. Although I stayed in the vicinity of Bear Lake a few days, I could easily obtain the signature of nearly 20 respectable people to the effect that 'I never saw the monster.' That monster business, in my opinion, is decidedly a 'Rich' affair. Should I ever get close enough to the monster, it is my intention to brand him J.C.R. on the left hip.
>
> Yours truly,
>
> Monsterio.[1]

For about two decades the people of Montpelier belonged to a single faith. They were united by bonds from within and without. The many hardships of frontier life compelled a spirit of cooperation and self-lessness. The sorrows of one became the sorrows of all and likewise the joys of one became the joys of all. The people had been called to make this settlement by their church and they looked to their leaders for guidance in every phase of life. That guidance, coupled with the obedience and cooperation of the people, had made Montpelier a permanent part of Bear Lake Valley.

1. Deseret News, November 25, 1868. For a rather complete treatment of the monster story see Russell Rich, op. cit.

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD

Though the first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869 with competing lines established shortly thereafter, the greater part of the territory of Idaho was without railroad service in 1880, this notwithstanding the fact that Idaho became a territory in 1863 because of the mining industry. Even the North Pacific Railroad, which so suddenly populated and developed eastern Washington and helped to develop eastern Oregon, performed no such service for Idaho, merely crossing the Panhandle in the northern end of the state.

> The road which relieved central and southern Idaho of the state of lethargy into which its business was falling, and which brought population and mining capital to the territory, was the Oregon Short Line Railroad, constructed by the Union Pacific Company. Traversing the territory from east to west, through its most inhabited belt of counties, it communicated to the dormant nerves of these isolated communities a shock from the thought batteries of the great world, rousing to action the brain and muscle lying idle. The taxable property of the territory, which in 1884 was $15,497,598, was three years later $20,441,192, mining property in which the greater amount of capital was invested, being non-assessable. The population, which in 1884 was 75,000, was in 1887 over 97,000.[1]

Montpelier, being one of the sleepy settlements along the proposed route, was vitally affected by this development. In 1870 there were 61 families residing in Montpelier with a total population of 299. Paris was the largest town in the valley, with a population of 502.[2] Ten years after the railroad reached Montpelier, its population increased to 1174 and its citizens could claim their city as the population metropolis of

1. Bancroft, op. cit., p. 566.
2. United States Census, 1870.
3. United States Census, 1890.

the valley.[1] By 1920 the census figures stood at 2,984 as compared to 1,000 people in the county seat at Paris.

There was a decided division in the attitude of the people regarding the railroad. Some thought it would be conducive to the prosperity of the valley, while others thought it would take prosperity out of the valley. Those individuals engaged in freighting undoubtedly saw their means of a livelihood withering beneath their feet, while others saw the development of resources yet untouched.[2]

The Bear Lake Democrat wrote:

> Vast amounts of hay will probably be shipped by rail at a profit, but before much of this is done we may have to improve the quality by cultivating tame grasses. . .
>
> With railroad facilities Bear Lake Valley and especially Soda Springs will be visited by thousands of tourists who will, of course, increase the circulation of money in our midst.
>
> It will be strange, however, if the completion of the railroad does not bring here what follows it almost everywhere, and that is a season of financial depression. If our people are wise they will prepare for it. As to evil influence and pernicious customs that may be introduced through the presence of a rough and reckless element that the railroad may bring into our midst, we trust that the virtue and integrity of a people who have covenanted to serve God through good and ill report will be sufficient protection.[3]

It was in 1881 when grading for a railroad through Bear River Valley was started by the Union Pacific Railroad. Several Montpelier citizens contracted work to be done. For instance, Edward Burgoyne had a contract for supplying ties and constructing grade, and Joseph Phelps and John

1. United States Census, 1890.
2. Journal History of the Church, October 5, 1881.
3. Ibid., July 8, 1882.

Cozzens took the contract for a roadbed through the slough south of Montpelier.

The Deseret News, October 5, 1881, reported:

> There is a business boom in Bear Lake Valley, Idaho. The saw mill owners in that region have combined to fill a contract to supply the Oregon Short Branch Railroad with a million feet of lumber, more or less. If all the teams in the valley were engaged hauling, they would be insufficient to supply the demand. In consequence, an agent is visiting Cache Valley to procure more horse help, which, however, is also in active demand there.
>
> This lumber contract has developed an idea and a resolution. It has demonstrated the fact that, in an associated capacity, Bear Lake lumber men can do a roaring business in supplying the region round about with excellent building material, of an unimpeachable quality. They are determined, in the future, to do it.[1]

To secure a right-of-way through the vicinity of Montpelier was a problem since the land was privately owned. Edward Burgoyne, against the advice of some of the citizens of Montpelier, deeded to the railroad a right-of-way 200 feet wide and later added the land on which the shops and roundhouse are located, thus clearing the way for the railroad to move west.[2]

On July 24, 1882, the first train ran through the town.[3] By September of that year a station had been built and it was largely conceded that Montpelier would be selected as the western end of the first division.[4]

The effects of the railroad on the town of Montpelier were many and varied. Having been driven from place to place and persecuted most violently, it was natural that the settlers would be suspicious of any outside element. The prime desire of many of them was to be left alone.

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1. Ibid., October 5, 1881.
2. Cruikshank, Fred. Interview.
3. Jenson, Andrew. Montpelier Ward.
4. Deseret News, September 4, 1882.

to rear their families according to their own faith and to gain a feeling of security by being independent of outside influence.

Certainly many of the people had viewed with apprehension the coming of the railroad and some had openly opposed it. Their opposition had forced the company to build farther west than previous plans had called for, which necessitated the construction of costly grades through the sloughs southwest of town. Had another route been feasible, it is doubtful that the railroad would have touched Montpelier at all. Necessity dictating, those settlers who opposed the venture, prepared for the worst.[1]

A fence running north and south had been built to fence off the open fields west of town. This fence became the dividing line between the original settlement at the base of the hills and the new one which sprang up near the track. Connecting the two areas was a road called Washington Avenue. The gate of the north-south fence opened and closed permitting passageway from one part of town to the other.[2]

In reality there were two Montpeliers--Mormon or Uptown Montpelier and Gentile, or Downtown Montpelier--and in 1890 it might have seemed that "never the twain shall meet." Each town maintained its own business district, school, recreational center and churches. The young people of "Uptown" were admonished not to go "Downtown," since the influences found there were not desirable.[3] For example, the saloons of the city were found there with the exception of one, which lived a short life on Fourth Street.[4] The people of "Downtown" viewed with resentment the apparent church solidarity with the controls it attempted to enforce, and for almost two decades the two "towns" eyed one another with suspicion

1. Cruikshank, Fred. Interview.
2. Harris, Charles. Interview.
3. Winters, A. J. Interview.
4. Smuin, Winifred. Interview.

and skepticism.

Economic development

Economically, Montpelier suddenly gained greater stature since it was the natural shipping and distributing point for Bear Lake, Thomas' Fork and Star Valley. In addition, it furnished most of the foodstuffs, horses, hay and grain for the mining towns in western Wyoming and, to some extent, as far north as Butte Montana.[1] In September, 1896, about 65 cars of sheep were loaded for shipment to eastern markets and 90 cars more had been asked for.[2] From the first to the 13th of November, the Co-op Wagon and Machine Company had shipped 400,000 pounds of oats to foreign markets besides many cars of wheat and hay.[3]

All the stock transported over the road was fed and watered at Montpelier, which necessitated the building of a large stockyard northwest of town. These yards remained in active use until the speed of the trains made stopovers unnecessary.[4]

In 1904 a brick round house was built just west of the tracks, at a cost of approximately $100,000. Prior to this wooden sheds were used.[5] The structure became a matter of great public pride since it was attractive and paid considerable revenue into the city treasury. It contained 15 stalls for the accommodation of engines in the 1,000 class. These were among the largest and heaviest locomotives, built to haul trains of 2,000 tons or more over the heavy grades of the mountain divisions. They

1. Publication of the Co-op Wagon and Machine Company. September, 1896.
2. Montpelier Examiner, September 18, 1896.
3. Ibid., November 13, 1896.
4. French, Hiram T. History of Idaho, p. 279.
5. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 41.

hauled four times as much at twice the speed as the locomotives used earlier.

A large 40 by 60 foot machine shop was connected with the round house containing such modern apparatus as drill presses, lathes, and planes for repair work. More than 600 engines were groomed and repaired per month in these shops.

Some 65 men were constantly employed besides the coal shovelers and track men. The monthly pay roll was between four and five thousand dollars, pouring into the financial life of Montpelier each year about $50,000.

The number of cars handled each month at Monepelier exceeded 30,000, being a larger number than at any other point on the Oregon Short Line.

The shops in 1907 were under the direction of William C. Lambert, District Foreman; C. H. Tommer bossed the night shift. The trusty smith was John O'bray who, for 25 years, had wielded the heavy sledge and made the anvil sing.[1]

The influx of railroad families and the development of west Montpelier brought in new businesses and added vigor to those establishments "Uptown." The Bear Lake Democrat of May 19, 1883, reported:

> Progress is most apparent in and around the lower part of town situated in the neighborhood of the depot where several buildings are lately erected. The Elk Hotel, now called Valley House, has changed proprietors. Directly south of the hotel we find Mr. Gottstein's Wholesale and Retail Liquor and Cigar Store and, as he is very popular with the railroad boys, he is doing a booming business. Still further south is the building formerly owned by Mr. David C. Morgan, who the Montpelier Co-op has bought out, and they have now opened a nice little store on the premise in addition to which they intend shortly to open a boardinghouse. Adjoining this store

1. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.

> is Mr. McIntosh's saloon. "Mac" is always around, and his genial countenance wields its magnetic influence over his customers to such an extent that his place is constantly crowded with people who 'thirst for a drink of living water,' or who enjoy the sport of punching little ivory balls with a long stick. Then, turning the corner eastward, we come to Mr. Joseph Lewis' new store, where he promises everybody dry goods and groceries of any kind 'cheap for each.' East of this store Mr. W. T. Johns is building a place where he intends to dispense vegetables, butter, eggs, etc. But enough for the lower part of town. Uptown is still possessed of small pox. . . Mr. Lloyd has been especially afflicted during the quarantine,his place of business being within its limits, and therefore not accessible. The other merchants, viz. The Co-op, Mr. Joe Lewis and Mr. Edward Burgoyne are still rivaling in selling of the most goods for the least money. The latter gentleman, in addition to his business in this place, has opened a store in Pocatello, where he has also quite an extensive grading contract. Our Postmaster and Druggist, Dr. C. A. Hoover, is still holding forth in his old stand on the corner and is very popular, the same amiable smile being visible upon his countenance whether he delivers a love letter, sells a 'W. B. Dodridge' cigar, or cuts a finger off.[1]

"Uptown" businesses

For about three decades after the railroad reached Montpelier, the business section "Uptown" expanded and maintained a thriving existence. In 1883 Edward Burgoyne built a two-story frame mercantile store on Fourth Street, between Washington and Lincoln streets.[2] North of this building was one owned by William Driver of Ogden, Utah, operated as a drugstore until 1896 when it was purchased by Edward Burgoyne for use as a sales-room for furniture, stoves, wallpaper, etc.[3] In 1898 the Driver Building was transferred to Edward's son, Lorenzo, and shortly thereafter became a clothing store.[4]

1. Journal History, op. cit., May 19, 1883, p. 5.
2. Burgoyne, Sidney. op. cit., pp. 65-67.
3. Montpelier Examiner, March 28, 1896.
4. Burgoyne, Sidney. op. cit., pp. 65-67.

Figure 1. (top) This picture shows Montpelier 26 years after the settlement. The photograph was taken from the top of a water tank in the railroad yards. The view is towards the east and clearly shows the "Downtown" area in 1890.

Figure 2. (bottom) Montpelier, looking west from M Hill along Washington Street about 1890.

The Co-op Store, located in the same area as the Burgoyne Store, was owned by stockholders in the valley. A partial list included the Ovid Relief Society, which had invested $62.33; the Montpelier Relief Society, $255.00; William L. Rich, $7.71; and C. E. Robison, $895.00. By 1887 the business, under the management of Hyrum Wooley, had accrued outstanding debts amounting to $4,979.68. The testimony given to the court placed most of the blame for this indebtedness to the management and the bishop, in his decision, ordered Mr. Woolley to pay the shareholders in full after the debts of the Co-op were settled. The secular court ordered the dissolution of the business and further ordered the receiver, C. L. French, to transfer all the money in his care to the court for disbursement.[1] The Co-op was sold to Mr. Burgoyne and absorbed into his extending business.[2]

In 1899 Edward Burgoyne opened an enlarged mercantile store in a new rock building between the old store and the Driver building. It was a single story building, 50 x 100 feet, made from Bennington Red Stone, and was "a valuable addition to the east side in particular and the whole town in general."[3]

In addition to various small shops, "Uptown" contained the Jones Hotel, Grunig's Butcher Shop, Burgoyne and Jones Mercantile, Hoover and Riter Brothers Drugstore, and the Co-operative Wagon and Machine Company.

Edward Burgoyne also operated a store "Downtown" in partnership with J. R. Brennan. It was located on the corner of Washington and 11th Street, and was a branch of his business "Uptown." He sold out to

1. Judgment Book A, Bear Lake County, pp. 30-31.
2. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 26.
3. Montpelier Examiner, April 13, 1899.

Brennan about 1899.[1]

Because of poor health, Mr. Burgoyne sold his interests to two of his daughters and their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cruikshank and Mr. and Mrs. Milford Williams. A partnership was formed, operating under the name of The Burgoyne Mercantile. Within a few years the partnership was dissolved; Mr. Cruikshank maintained the furniture store in the building to the south, acting also as mortician until the building was abandoned, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams ran the general merchandise store in the center until it was closed after most of the trade shifted "Downtown."[2]

Lorenzo Burgoyne moved the clothing store "Downtown" in 1909, first to the corner of Twelfth and Washington Streets, then into the east half of the Cruikshank Building.[3]

A similar story could be told of the other businesses of "Uptown" Montpelier. They were active until the growing business section, near the railroad, became the center of trade. Then they either dropped from the Montpelier business society altogether or did as Burgoynes and moved "Downtown."[4]

A contributing factor to the decline of "Uptown" business was the re-routing of the highway. Instead of continuing north on Fourth Street as it had done from the beginning, it turned west at Washington, thus by-passing most of the "Uptown" businesses.[5]

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1. Cruikshank, Fred. Interview.
2. Ibid.
3. Burgoyne, Sidney. op. cit., p. 67. In 1926 the store was moved to its present location with Elmer and Sidney Burgoyne, sons of Lorenzo, as proprietors.
4. Cruikshank, Fred. Interview.
5. Ibid.

Figure 3. (top) The Burgoyne business started in one room of the two-room cabin. The first store was built about 1878 on the southwest corner of Garfield and Fourth Streets.

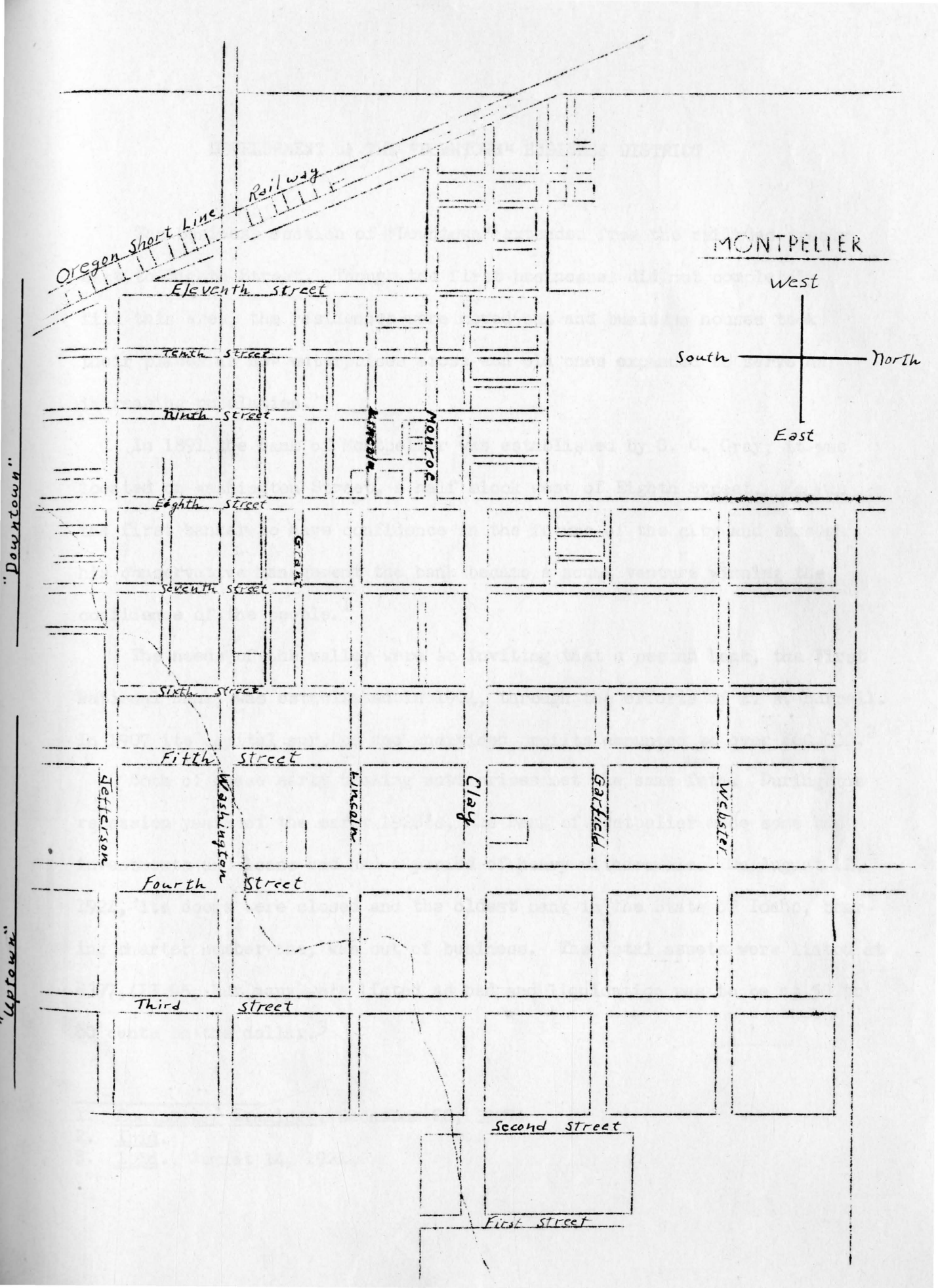
Figure 4. (bottom) The two-story Burgoyne Store opened in 1883 on Fourth Street.

Figure 5. (top) The Burgoyne "Uptown" Stores as they appeared about 1900. The new rock building completed in 1899 is located between the two-story 1883 building and the Driver Building.

Figure 6. (bottom) Hoover's Drugstore "Uptown" referred to by the Bear Lake Democrat in 1883.

Figure 7. (top) Intersection of Washington and Fourth Streets about 1890. The Co-op Wagon and Machine Store and Riter Brothers Drugstore occupy the corner location.

Figure 8. (bottom) A picture of early pioneer settlers taken by the First Ward Meeting House.


MONTPELIER
West
South
North
East
Oregon Short Line Railway
Eleventh Street
Tenth Street
Ninth Street
Eighth Street
Seventh Street
Sixth Street
Fifth Street
Fourth Street
Third Street
Second Street
First Street
Lincoln
Monroe
Grant
Jefferson
Washington
Lincoln
Clay
Garfield
Webster
"Downtown"
"Uptown"

DEVELOPMENT OF THE "DOWNTOWN" BUSINESS DISTRICT

The business section of "Downtown" extended from the railroad tracks east to Eighth Street. Though the first businesses did not completely fill this area, the residences were moved out and business houses took their places as new enterprises arose and old ones expanded to serve an increasing population.

In 1891 the Bank of Montpelier was established by G. C. Gray; it was located on Washington Street, a half block west of Eighth Street. He was the first banker to have confidence in the future of the city and through his conservative management the bank became a sound venture winning the confidence of the people.[1]

The needs of the valley were so inviting that a second bank, the First National Bank, was established in 1904, through the efforts of E. A. Burrell. In 1907 its capital surplus and undivided profits amounted to over $60,000.[2]

Both of these early banking enterprises met the same fate. During the recession years of the early 1920's, the Bank of Montpelier made some bad investments and loans and had a period of heavy withdrawals. On August 12, 1924, its doors were closed and the oldest bank in the State of Idaho, bearing charter number one, was out of business. The total assets were listed at $397,413.95, but many were listed as bad and liquidation was to be at 50 to 60 cents on the dollar.[3]

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1. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., August 14, 1924.

On February 26, 1925, for similar reasons, the First National Bank closed its doors and Montpelier was without a bank.[1]

A movement to organize a new bank was led by a committee consisting of George Ashley, H. B. Whitman, Edward C. Rich, A. A. Vealy, M. J. Davis and J. K. Brennan.[2] Their efforts were successful and the Eccles-Browning Bank of Montpelier opened its doors on August 1, 1925, occupying the building formerly owned by the Bank of Montpelier. M. S. Eccles was President and Director with the other officers as follows: M. A. Browning, Director; James Olsen, Director; J. C. Rich, Director; and T. McMilton, Cashier and Director. The bank opened with a combined capital and surplus of $60,000.[3] In its statement of condition in the Examiner on October 1, its total resources were listed at $194,000.00.

There were several stores competing with one another in the sale of general merchandise. One of the largest was the Brennan and Davis Store, which had a "full line of dry goods, carpets, rugs, draperies, ladies and childrens' garments, gents' furnishings and a host of other articles which dressy folks delight in." There was, in addition, a grocery department.[4]

H. B. Whitman had opened a business in 1893 under the firm name of Hammond and Whitman in a small building west of his location in 1907. In 1898 he bought the interests of Hammond and built up a large business in general merchandise.[5]

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1. Ibid.
2. Montpelier Examiner, July 16, 1925.
3. Ibid., July 30, 1925. Mr. Frank Sorgatz, former manager of the First Security Bank, stated that the marble columns on the front of the building were imported from Sweden.
4. Ibid., December 20, 1907.
5. Ibid., Whitman sold his building to the News Examiner in about 1940.

A firm called Hansen and Hughes was enjoying a fine business in 1907 and Sam Lewis, a dealer in dry goods and grocers, had a wide circle of patrons. Mose Lewis owned a dry goods store which was managed by Edward Lewis and, judging from the advertisements in the local paper, the store did a booming business.[1]

Montpelier was the location of one of the stores of the Golden Rule Mercantile Company in 1907. Other stores were located in Evanston, Cumberland, Rock Springs and Kemmerer, Wyoming; Fort Collins, Colorado; Ogden, Utah and Pocatello and Blackfoot, Idaho. The proprietors in Montpelier were J. L. Barney and T. M. Callahan.[2]

By 1907 Montpelier had three drugstores. Riter Brothers had erected a new building "Downtown" in 1902 and transferred their business from "Uptown." Dr. C. A. Hoover, who had also been situated "Uptown," had transferred to a new location on "Downtown" Washington Street. His establishment was called the Montpelier Drug Company and was managed by his son. Further west in the Brennan and Davis block was the Modern Drug Company, established by Dr. D. O. Poynter.[3]

One of the largest businesses, considering the size of the building, was the Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company, representing the merged interests of the Cooperative Wagon and Machine Company and the Consolidated Implement Company effected in 1902. Each company had been in business in Montpelier for about 15 years and had developed a considerable patronage. The merged interest was located in a building 255 feet deep and 80 feet wide.[4]

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., J. C. Penney Company bought the Golden Rule Store of Montpelier shortly after 1925.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.

Figure 9. (above) Looking west on Washington Street from Eighth Street about 1902. The Odd Fellows Building can be seen on the left.

Figure 10. (bottom) Looking east on "Downtown" Washington in 1908. The First National Bank Building stands out on the left.

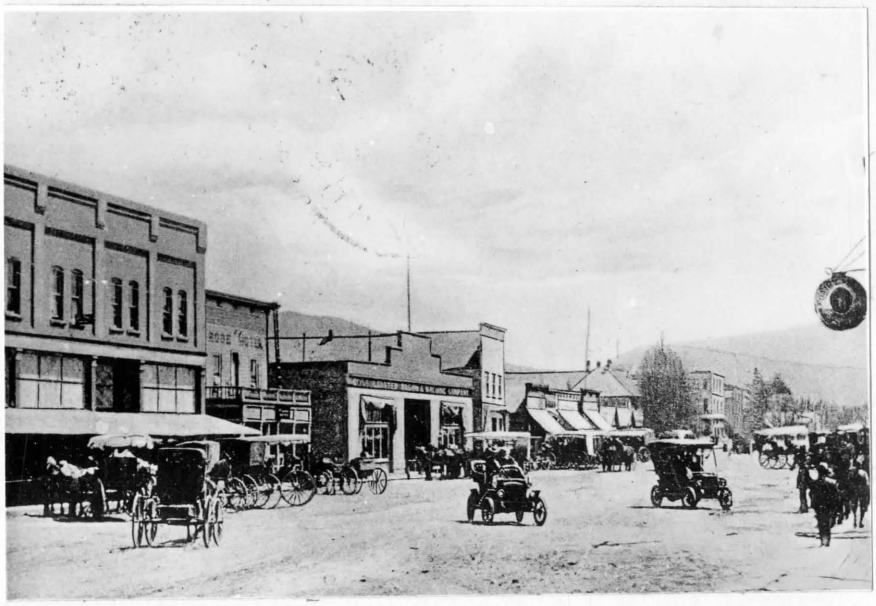

Figure 11. (top) This picture taken about 1905 shows the many small shops on the south side of "Downtown" Washington Street.

Figure 12. (bottom) This picture taken about 1910 shows the buildings on the north side of Washington Street and shows the automobile invading the domain of the horse and buggy.

Figure 13. Looking west on Washington Street from the bank corner about 1916. Contrasting this picture with earlier ones makes it evident that larger brick structures are replacing the earlier frame buildings. Note also the condition of the unpaved street.

Figure 14. The paving of Washington Street drew the city into closer unity since it extended paved streets into the old "Uptown" area.

The Sydney Stevens Implement Company, which had been located midway between "Uptown" and "Downtown," moved west to a "Downtown" location about 1910. The implement company was closed out and the Gem Theater and Dance Hall replaced it.[1]

Duncan McLennan's warehouse on Depot Street carried a large stock of building supplies and was bought by R. N. Sneddon in 1910. By 1918 it became a corporation with A. A. Vealey and Harry Nuckols as partial owners of the Montpelier Coal and Lumber Company.[2]

Studebaker Brothers opened a wagon and buggy house in 1899, with W. H. Ridd as their agent. John Barrett was the agent in 1907. Their business was managed by Joe Rich from 1909 to 1914, when he organized his own motor company and was granted a Studebaker franchise.[3]

There were two furniture stores "Downtown" in 1907. Thor Nielsen and his family opened a small shop on Ninth Street in 1895, then moved to a location on Washington Street in 1902. The store was moved further west to a more favorable site about 1918.[4] Mr. Nielsen claimed to be the pioneer undertaker in the valley.[5] The second store was the L. D. Vincent Furniture Company, which also dealt in undertaking merchandise.[6]

The Montpelier Milling Company was owned by E. R. Miles, Sr., President, P. Jones, Vice President and Frank Miles, Treasurer, Secretary and Manager. The mill had an output of 220 sacks of flour per day and ran day

1. Cruikshank, Fred, Interview.
2. Vealey, Ace, Interview. The Corporation was purchased by Vealey and Nuckols in 1928 and their partnership is still in continuance.
3. Montpelier Examiner, August 13, 1925.
4. Nielsen, Eugene, Interview.
5. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907. This company is still operating in Montpelier.
6. Ibid.

and night most of the year, giving employment to several men. Montpelier Creek, of which they had prior rights, afforded a cheap source of power. When the creek was frozen, the mill operated on electricity. They manufactured flour, several varieties of breakfast foods, graham flour, short bran, and all kinds of chopped feeds.[1]

One of the oldest meat markets in the valley was the H. H. Hoff Butchering Company, founded in 1885. It made a specialty of all sausages and cooked meats and had the only steam sausage plant in southeastern Idaho in 1907.

Montpelier had at least two livery stables until the automobile made their services no longer available. Frank Clark took a light sled to Paris in 1914, using it for 13 hours and 15 minutes. The rate was 25 cents an hour.[2]

The year 1905 brought a laundry established by a company from Logan, Utah, which later went out of business because of the hard water. Established the previous year were a saw mill and a brick yard located south of town.[3]

In 1907, W. F. Owen Jr. of Idaho Falls built a lime kiln of 100 bushels capacity on the hill at the head of Washington Street. He supplied lime for all of Bear Lake besides shipping carload lots to Blackfoot, Idaho, Idaho Falls and other towns. At one time his plans called for a railroad spur to his kiln but this never materialized and the kiln ran for only a few years.[4]

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1. Ibid.
2. Livery Ledger, 1914.
3. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 47.
4. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.

Montpelier had several small hotels and one large one. The original Burgoyne Hotel was in a building constructed by Edward Burgoyne for a Y. M. C. A. After some years the building reverted to Mr. Burgoyne, who sold it to J. N. Downing in 1898. He retained the pioneer name of Burgoyne to designate what became the three-story hotel on Washington Street with seven business rentals. The original building was moved from Washington Street to North Ninth Street and converted into the Downing Apartments. In 1908 the east wing of the new building was built, followed in 1915 with the construction of the west wing. The space between the two wings was enclosed in 1925.[1]

City improvements

Where the first telephone in Montpelier was located is not certain, but the evidence indicates it was in the Co-op Store, managed by Hyrum Woolley of Paris. It was advertised that Mr. Woolley wanted $275.00 for his line from Paris to Montpelier, including the machine at the Montpelier end.[2] This announcement was made at about the time the Montpelier Co-op was dissolved by the court in 1887 because of bad management. It is probable the line was purchased by Burgoyne and Brennan since at this time they had a line running from their store in Montpelier to the Paris Mercantile.[3]

The first lines between individuals in Montpelier ran between the homes of Edward Burgoyne and John Brennan and their store "Downtown." These were, of course, private lines.[4]

Early in 1900 the general superintendent of the Rocky Mountain Bell

1. News Examiner, December 31, 1953.
2. Smuin, Winifred, Interview.
3. Burgoyne Sidney, Interview
4. Montpelier Examiner, February 13, 1900.

Telephone Company accounced that the next spring work would commence on telephone lines. Montpelier became the headquarters for Bear Lake Valley, with lines extending throughout the valley and as far north as the Snake River and east to Star Valley and Diamondville. Connection was made with Salt Lake via Logan. The company provided employment for a number of local families.[1]

In 1902, plans for an electric power plant materialized. Articles of incorporation of the Montpelier Electric Light Company were filed September 15, 1902, for 50 years to do electrical business in Bear Lake County. The incorporators were J. A. Rostan, R. C. Miller, Charles Hoff and John A. Bagley, all of Montpelier, and W. E. Raines of Logan, Utah. The Montpelier directors were all local businessmen. Capital stock was set at $25,000.00, each share having a par value of $1.00. All the directors owned 1,250 shares except Mr. Bagley who owned 500.[2]

Mr. Hoff was selected president; Mr. Raines, vice president; Mr. Miller, secretary; and Mr. Rostan, treasurer. The company made plans for building

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1. It is impossible to discuss in detail all the businesses in operation in Montpelier during this period. Some businesses flourished throughout the period, others opened and closed in a matter of a few years. Many that were in existence left no appreciable record and so could be no more than mentioned. The following names which are not mentioned elsewhere in this paper were taken from the advertising in the local paper and therefore cannot be taken as a complete list. They are as follows: Charles Schmid's Taylor Shop, Whinyates Millinery, F. M. Williams Mortuary, Edward Rich's Grocery, Stewarts Grocery, Sponberg's Grocery, O. P. Skaggs, Rinehart Studios, The Royal Bakery, W. E. Christman's Jewelry, The Burgoyne Pharmacy, The Service Depot, The Montpelier Creamery opened in 1908, Hawkins Variety Store, The Citizens Electric Supply Company, B. H. Bowen's General Hardware, Enos Harness Shop, Arnolds Harness Shop, Hauck's Shoe Repair, Simon Einzenger's Shoe Shop, The Bluebird Confectionary, The Grand Cafe, The Vienna Cafe, Ed Grosjean's Barber Shop, The Palace Saloon, The Solo Bar, The Hoff Hotel and The Lunch Counter.
2. The Utah Power and Light Company. History of Origin and Development, p. 265.

a steam plant on the "Y" leading from the yards of the Oregon Short Line into the premises of the Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company.[1]

During the week of October 24, the poles were set; stringing of wire followed. Progress of the work was enthusiastically followed by the people of the community. The power house was finished in January, 1903, and by February 16, the plant was complete with one engine of 100 horsepower and a dynamo capable of furnishing 1300 incandescent lights of 16 candle power. Two boilers were installed, one for emergency.[2]

The power plant began operating February 18, 1903, and the display of brilliant lighting convinced even the most skeptical of its merits. Rates published by the new concern, including all-night service, were: one light, $1.00; two lights, $1.60; three lights, $2.30; four lights, $2.90; and five lights, $3.40. Each additional light up to ten was $.50 per month. After ten lights a discount of ten per cent was allowed. Commercial rates were $1.00 for the first light, $.75 for each additional light up to five, and $.65 for each additional light above five.[3]

An editorial in the Montpelier Examiner, March 7, 1905, stated:

> The Montpelier Electric Light Company was organized a few years ago. Our citizens were a little slow in discarding their coal oil lamps for electric lights but they gradually got the habit and it was not long until the officers realized that their steam plant was too small to meet the demands. So the Georgetown plant for water power was selected.

The first current over the wires from this new hydro-electric plant came in April, 1905.[4] In August the steam plant was dismantled and put up for

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., p. 266.
3. Ibid.
4. Passey, Earl. op. cit., p. 46.

sale since it was no longer useful.[1]

For several years there were two competing companies in Montpelier. On October 20, 1905, a franchise was granted to the Bear Lake Valley Railway and Electric Company managed by B. E. Slusser with headquarters at Paris. The franchise provided that the Paris concern could construct a line only on a street where but one line existed, that the new company was to furnish six arc lights free to the city, and that an indemnity bond of $10,000.00 was to be posted.[2]

By November 10, 1905, the line had been built toward Montpelier as far as the railroad tracks. In January, Slusser was ordered by Mayor Milford Williams to cease setting up poles in Montpelier since the bond had not been posted.[3] There had also been a protest from the Bell Telephone Company that Mr. Slusser was stringing wires on the same side of the street as the telephone wires and that undue interference with their circuits was the result.[4]

The troubles were finally ironed out and the company finished stringing the wires and began to compete for the business. In the fall of 1906, C. R. Slusser, who was president of the company, moved from Paris to Montpelier. The company had rented a portion of the Hoover Building and began the sale of fixtures and supplies.[5]

In December, 1907, Judge D. W. Standrod of Pocatello, Idaho, took over the company and announced plans for reorganization. J. A. Tupper, electrical engineer of Pocatello, became the local manager and in April, 1908, announced

1. Utah Power and Light, op. cit., p. 267.
2. Trustee Minutes, op. cit.
3. Utah Power and Light, op. cit., p. 262.
4. Trustee Minutes, op. cit.
5. Utah Power and Light, op. cit., p. 263.

that a new power house would be built in Paris Canyon which would supply electricity for points then not served.[1]

Mr. Standrod effected a consolidation of his company and the Montpelier Light and Power Company, Ltd. on July 1, 1908, to form the Bear Lake Power Company. The property, however, was not conveyed until July 15 and 16.[2] The new company was incorporated for $125,000.00, divided into 1,250 shares of a par value of $100.00 per share. Subscribers included J. N. Ireland, 207 shares; L. L. Evans, 207 shares; D. W. Standrod, 206 shares; Alfred Budge, 10 shares; John Brennan, 310 shares; and Timothy Kinney, 310 shares. The company was incorporated for 50 years with Montpelier as the principal place of business.[3]

Towards the last of August, 1910, the new plant at Paris was finished and the old plant, along with the plant at Georgetown, was shut down. In 1911, the Paris plant was damaged by lightning, and the Georgetown power house was reactivated. It could carry only part of the load and for a few months the people on the west side of the valley went back to oil lamps. The Georgetown plant was improved for use in emergencies.[4]

At a special meeting of the stockholders held in July, 1913, it was decided to sell the company to the Utah Power and Light Company. The sale was announced August 25, 1913, at which time the property was conveyed by warranty deed.[5]

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1. Ibid., p. 264.
2. Ibid., p. 268.
3. Ibid., p. 269.
4. Ibid., pp. 269-270.
5. Ibid., p. 270.

The city of Montpelier granted a franchise to the Utah Power and Light Company to last from July 19, 1916, to March 1, 1962. Its principal office for Bear Lake County was situated in Montpelier.[1]

The Telluride Power Company in 1907 was granted the right to divert the waters of Bear River to Bear Lake, which would serve as a storage reservoir and to provide for the reclaiming of this water when needed in periods of draught. Such a project called for the digging of an inlet canal and an outlet canal. It was estimated that the project would cost about $3,000,000.00.

Two small canals had been constructed when the company was absorbed by the Utah Power and Light Company in 1912.[2] The canals were enlarged and a low concrete dam was constructed several miles south of Montpelier to divert the water of Bear River into the Rainbow inlet canal. Since gravity alone could not reclaim the waters stored in the lake, the Lifton Pumping Station was built in 1915-1916.[3] With a capacity of 1500 cubic feet per second, its use increased the total reservoir capacity of Bear Lake and adjoining lakes on the north to approximately 1,500,000 acre feet.

Mining activities

Near the turn of the century, a great interest in mining was aroused. The Montpelier Examiner wrote:

> Several prospectors have quietly slipped out of Montpelier lately for the hills and we expect some startling strikes of good ore to be announced shortly. The hills about Bear Lake are full of minerals, and it will be struck in paying quantities before the season is over.[4]

1. Book of Ordinances, Ordinance No. 162, pp. 49-50.
2. Utah Power and Light Company, op. cit., p. 372.
3. Ibid., p. 373.
4. Montpelier Examiner, July 12, 1899.

Claims were filed and assessments worked for years. In many cases claims were consolidated and several mining companies were formed by individuals in the valley.[1] Although a few of the mines shipped ore, no quantities of precious metals, sufficient to warrant commercial operation, were found.

In 1910 the San Francisco Chemical Company leased large tracts of land near Montpelier for the mining of phosphate. During the early years quarry mining was done but this method was replaced by tunneling. The equipment at the Waterloo mine, located several miles up Montpelier Canyon, consisted principally of a 50-ton leading bin, a blacksmith shop and an air compressor. During much of the year 1920, the mine was shipping at the daily rate of about 100 tons of phosphate rock, but because of the decline in demand for the product, the mine was temporarily closed at the end of the year.[2]

In 1920, the American Phosphate Corporation began operations on ground leased from the San Francisco Chemical Company, and by August 30 had driven an entry along the phosphate bed 400 feet. Shipping was in progress at the rate of 64 to 72 tons a day, the rock being hauled on eight-ton trucks for a distance of four and one-half miles to the railroad at Montpelier. Storage space was available for 150 tons of rock and new construction in progress was intended to provide space for an additional 1,200 tons.[3]

Plans were well advanced for the installation of a crusher and drier of 500 tons capacity, at an estimated cost of about $15,000; part of this machinery was already on the ground. By December, construction of the plant was in progress. Shipments up to September 15, 1921, had amounted to 4,100

1. Mansfield Report, pp. 28-29.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

tons and the people of Montpelier were anticipating an expanded payroll. The recession of the following winter forced the operations to close. The company operated intermittently under its lease until 1925, shipping a total of about 20,000 tons of ore. At that time it ceased operations altogether and turned the property back to the lessor.[1]

No economic boom, other than the coming of the railroad, has occurred in Montpelier. There has been very little increase in population or business that cannot be traced directly to the influence of the railroad. Future expansion depends upon the development of the rich phosphate beds that lie almost untouched in the mountains surrounding the city.

The growth of political parties

The Republican party, in its national platform of 1876, displayed a hostile feeling towards the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by making the following declaration:

> The Constitution confers upon Congress sovereign powers over the territories of the United States for their government, and in the exercise of this power it is the right and duty of Congress to prohibit and extirpate in the territories that relic of barbarism, polygamy; and we demand such legislation as shall secure this end and the supremacy of American institutions in all the territories.[2]

An earlier platform had called for the extirpation of the twin relics of barbarism--slavery and polygamy. The one had become an accomplished fact; the other became the great objective.

Because of this declaration and as a matter of self-preservation, the Mormon people closely associated themselves with the Democratic Party. This

1. Ibid., p. 279.
2. French, H. T., op. cit., p. 575.

was certainly the case in Bear Lake Valley. J. L. Underwood, who was living in Paris in 1880, was told when he asked for a Republican ballot that they "did not deal in that article." Upon inquiring why, he was told it was in the people's interests to vote Democratic. Procuring a blank sheet of paper, he made his own ballot and claimed to be the first person to cast a Republican ballot in Bear Lake County. Only seven non-Mormons voted in all Bear Lake County in 1884.[1]

The almost unified Mormon vote insured Democratic success in every political battle fought in Idaho Territory and brought a vigorous outcry from the Republican Party. The Democrats everywhere were twitted for securing elections by use of the votes of the Mormon Church membership.[2]

The Congress had passed the Poland Anti-Bigamy Law in 1862, which defined plural marriage as bigamy and provided for punishment of such offences by fine and imprisonment. This law proved ineffective since it was dependent on effective local law enforcement. Twenty years later on March 22, 1882, the Edmunds Act became law. This act made polygamy punishable by disfranchisement, and a fine not to exceed $500.00, with imprisonment for not more than three years. Children of such marriages were to be deemed illegitimate.[3]

All that was required in Idaho to begin a wave of persecution was an aggressive leadership, and that was supplied in the person of Fred T. Dubois. Mr. Dubois, a graduate from Yale, came to Blackfoot, Idaho, in 1880. He was interested in practical politics and secured for himself the position of

1. Well, Merle W. "The Idaho Anti-Mormon Test Oath, 1884-1892." Pacific Historical Review, 1955.
2. French, H. T., op. cit., p. 575.
3. Beal, M. D., op. cit., p. 301.

United States Marshall for Idaho. He was then in a position to use the popular sentiment against polygamy to further his own political career.[1]

Factors which aided Dubois were: the distrust engendered by Mormon social and religious separatism; attempts to halt Mormon expansion northward from Utah; the reaction against economic cooperatives, which the Mormons introduced in 1868 and adopted widely in 1874; and the objection to the Mormon custom of unanimous, cooperative voting for Democratic political candidates.[2]

A bitter attack was launched upon the Church. The plan adopted consisted of two parts; first, to discredit the Mormon people in the eyes of the citizens of the territory and thereby open the way for the enactment of restrictive legislation, and second, to destroy the political control of the Church in southeastern Idaho by a wave of persecutions under the law.[3]

The anti-Mormon forces were consolidated by the summer of 1884. They had the Republican vote lined up and the next step was to split the Democratic Party and isolate the Mormons. This objective was achieved when the Democratic Convention of 1884 denied seats to the Mormon delegates.[4]

The Mormon people had no recourse but to form themselves into an independent party, throwing their influence in that direction which best served their interests.[5] In 1884 they voted for Fred T. Dubois, Republican candidate for Territorial Representative. They apparently preferred an avowed enemy to a doubtful partisan or possibly they were anxious to get

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1. Ibid., p. 302.
2. Wells, Merle W., loc. cit., p. 235.
3. Ibid.
4. Beal, M. D., op. cit., p. 303.
5. French, H. T., op. cit., p. 575.

Dubois out of the United States Marshall's office.[1]

As neither party benefited by the independent action of the Saints, they united against them and at the 13th Territorial Session, February 3, 1885, the legislature of Idaho disfranchised the voters of the Mormon Church. This was accomplished by the enactment of the infamous "test oath" which read in part:

> I do further swear that I am not a bigamist or polygamist; that I am not a member of any order, organization or association which teaches, advises, counsels or encourages its members, devotees, or any other person to commit the crime of bigamy or polygamy, or any other crime defined by law.[2]

The next session of the territorial legislature passed a registration act which in effect required the same oath as a condition of registration.[3]

> Destruction of the model theocratic government which the Saints maintained in Bear Lake County was the major initial objective of the promoters of the test oath. County administration in Bear Lake operated simply as an adjunct to Church government, with county officers serving as instruments to execute Church policy. Control of the Bear Lake theocracy thus rested in the Church hierarchy. Until construction of the Oregon Short Line Railway had introduced a gentile element into Montpelier in 1882, the entire system had operated with remarkable freedom from external conflict. Anti-Mormons intended that the test oath should sever the Bear Lake union of church and state. During the Saints' quarterly conference at Paris, May 9, 1885, a deputy marshal broke in during opening prayer, 'and with a half dignified, half terrified look, walked up . . . to the stand directly behind the speaker and handed a summons to Samuel Matthews'--a Bear Lake commissioner who declined to sign the oath.
>
> With a minimum of difficulty, the Bear Lake Saints outwitted their determined opponents. A week after the Paris raid, Samuel Matthews and some other county officials resigned. Nonfugitives replaced them. An anti-Mormon deponent averred that the new officers were ignoring the

1. Beal, M. D., op. cit., p. 304.
2. French, H. T., op. cit., pp. 489-490.
3. Ibid., p. 490.

> impossible test oath, but he could not prove his contention, since the recorder was a fugitive from justice, and the county records were unavailable for inspection. United States Marshall Fred T. Dubois lamented that he wished to arrest the recorder, J. U. Stuki, but he was 'entirely unable to find him.' Responding to anti-Mormon requests, acting Governor Edward Jay Curtis ordered the Bear Lake county offices vacated on May 20. Curtis obligingly supplied the county with a new anti-Mormon slate, but the Saints naturally did not cooperate in those proceedings. In practice the old officials continued in office, but stayed in hiding. In a community united against them, anti-Mormon appointees lacked the means to gain authority.[1]

> Victory for Dubois and the test oath in the 1886 election consolidated the position of the radical anti-Mormons. The Saints lost completely. Even the Bear Lake Mormons no longer could resist the Curtis appointees, whom they had held off for a year and a half. Fortified by a decision of Chief Justice James B. Hays on October 18, upholding the test oath and the Curtis nominee, the anti-Mormon slate assumed office on October 29, just in time to disorganize the election. A number of important precincts did not bother to vote at all, and a handful of radical anti-Mormons controlled the rest. Bear Lake Saints mourned that 'men who have been cut off from the Church for immorality and other sins are the only ones who can vote in several of our large settlements, and they are the ones who must hold the offices.' The test oath had achieved its purposes.[2]

Yet the provisions of the test oath were ineffective for any prolonged period against the Mormon populace of Bear Lake. They remained so united in their opposition that the area was referred to as the Bear Lake citadel.[3]

In 1889, the 15th session of the territorial legislature passed an act which disqualified all members of the Mormon Church, who were members of the organization after the first day of January, 1888, unless they first made application to the district court and swore they had withdrawn from the Church and further swore that they did not teach, counsel, advise,

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1. Wells, Merle W., loc. cit., pp. 238-239.
2. Ibid., p. 241.
3. Wells, Merle W., loc., cit., p. 243.

or encourage anyone to practice bigamy or polygamy. The statute also provided that any time after two years from the date of making the application, an applicant could appear before the district court with two legal voters as witnesses, who had never been members of such an organization, and he examined by the court as to being qualified or not.[1]

To avoid political impotency there seemed to be only one course of action open to the Saints and that was to withdraw from the Church, take the test oath and vote. Although this method was sanctioned by Church leaders, it was used by only a small percentage of the members. One man stated the problem as follows:

> I left my native land, left friends and relatives. I have been deprived of my franchise for my religion, but I am not yet willing to leave the Church. I can live without voting, but not without my religion, and I will not voluntarily take my name from the records.[2]

Since most of those who did follow the above procedure were indicted for conspiracy to violate the laws of the territory, the Mormons were made politically ineffective in Idaho. This was done in spite of the fact that less than one per cent of the Church members in the territory practiced plural marriage.[3]

For a decade following 1883, the polygamists were hunted with as much sport as game in a big game hunt.

> The force of deputies was adequate and well paid. The United States Attorney received a fee of $100, for each conviction secured through a trial, and $50 for each case in which a plea of guilty was entered.[4]

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1. French, H. T., op. cit., p. 490.
2. Beal, M. D., op. cit., p. 306.
3. Rich, Russell, op. cit., p. 210.
4. Beal, M. D., op. cit., p. 308.

The deputies received fees for each summons on jurymen, for every subpoena delivered, and for all arrests. No wonder the hunt was carried on with such intensity; it was a political racket.[1]

After the disfranchising act of the 13th territorial legislature, H. W. (Kentucky) Smith and George Gorton came to Montpelier and organized an anti-Mormon party. For some time there was a political battle waged between this party and the Democrats, who could meet the test oath.[2]

The anti-Mormon party of Montpelier was located "Downtown" by the railroad. As the battle for political control was being waged, prosecutions for violations of the federal polygamy laws increased and the Saints saw the Gentiles of "Downtown" as the chief aids to the United States marshals and deputies who had so rudely interrupted the peace of the community.

The deputies would arrive in Montpelier by train and hire horses for use in raids on the surrounding communities. The Mormons soon had watchmen in Montpelier who would telephone warnings of the whereabouts of the deputies. One time when Bishop William L. Rich of Montpelier was telephoning Paris, his conversation was overheard by a Gentile party who had a phone on the same line. Shortly thereafter an officer appeared at his home ready to serve a subpoena summoning him to court. Fortunately, Bishop Rich had left home and the subpeona was left with his wife. She got word to her husband's brother, Joseph C. Rich, a lawyer, who advised her to get word to her husband to stay out of town for a few days. Joseph C. Rich then returned the subpoena and nothing more came of the incident.[3]

Not all of the Saints of Montpelier were that fortunate. In 1885 Joseph M. Phelps was arrested and imprisoned for six months at Boise. In

1. Ibid., p. 309.
2. Montpelier Examiner, December 2, 1904.
3. Rich, Russell, op. cit., pp. 211-212.

addition he was fined $300.00 and required to pay $100.00 in court costs.[1] Not long afterwards, William Severns was sentenced to six months in the penitentiary at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for unlawful cohabitation and an additional three years for alleged adultery with his wives.[2] These are but two examples of rather frequent occurrences in Montpelier.

The ex-post facto features of these laws made compliance a virtual impossibility and created terrible hardships for many families. In seeking protection from these harsh laws, the Saints carried their petitions to the highest court of the land, but that court which has often been the protector of persecuted minorities, was arrayed on the side of their enemies. The laws were declared constitutional, even the test oath in Idaho.

The trial courts were a travesty of due process of law as was well illustrated when "Kentucky" Smith remarked that he was certain that he could secure an acquittal for some of the defendants. Mr. Dubois replied, "'Kentucky, you could not secure the acquittal of anyone of these polygamists, because we have a jury that would convict Jesus Christ."[3] Rigged juries were the practice after the marshals secured the privilege of having jurymen summoned by open venire, thus giving them the privilege of selecting their own juries.[4]

On March 3, 1887, the Edmunds Tucker Act was passed by the United States Congress.

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1. Jenson, Andrew. Church Chronology, p. 125.
2. Ibid., p. 155.
3. Beal, M. D., op. cit., p. 311.
4. Rich, Russell, op. cit., p. 218.

> This dis-incorporated the Church, confiscated church property, abolished woman suffrage, declared polygamous children disinherited, and contained other drastic measures. This bill became law without the signature of President Cleveland.[1]

On top of all else, this was more than the Church could bear, and when James G. Blaine urged the Church leaders to take some action that would relieve the anti-Mormon pressures against the government, President Wilford Woodruff, after much thought and consideration, issued the Manifesto. This proclamation given on September 25, 1890, released the Church members from sustaining the doctrine of plural marriage, and urged them to refrain from marriage forbidden by the laws of the land. The Saints, assembled for October conference, unanimously approved this action.[2]

> While these salutary trends were bringing the nation and the Church from an impasse to understanding, the Idaho campaign went forward without diminution.[3]

Mormon representatives from Bear Lake County to the 15th legislative assembly in 1888 were denied their seats, and in 1888, the Constitutional Convention met and included as part of Idaho's Constitution the provisions of the infamous test oath.[4]

Though the first state legislature in 1891 passed the Idaho Australian Ballot Law which disfranchised the Mormons forever, there were signs that a reaction against these harsh measures was beginning. In a test case of the above law, the defendant, whose counsel was James H. Hawley, was acquitted by a jury vote of ten against two.[5]

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1. Rich, Russell, op. cit., p. 218.
2. Beal, M. D., op. cit., p. 315.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., p. 316.
5. Ibid.

In December, 1891, the First Presidency of the Mormon Church petitioned President Harrison for ammesty. The petition was granted and ammesty was given to all polygamists who entered that relation before November 1, 1890. The Edmunds-Tucker Act was subsequently repealed with a restoration of Church property.[1]

Idaho's third state legislature, meeting in 1895, finally eliminated, both from the section of the statute prescribing qualifications, and from the oath required as a condition of registration, all of the former references in any way relating to bigamy, polygamy, or membership in an organization teaching, counseling or advising the same as a doctrinal right. The above references, however, still appear in the State Constitution.[2]

A major cause for the change of attitude towards the Saints was their decision on a new political policy. Prior to this time they had advocated a solid vote as can be seen by the following statement of President Budge, made in 1882: "When we have an election, I would like to see it conducted without an opposition vote."[3]

The new policy advocated dividing on party lines and on November 8, 1891, President Budge said:

> Our co-religionists in Utah have divided politically into parties. The Latter Day Saint understanding is that the Constitution gave them certain privileges which they have contended for through the courts. They were obliged to hold together. What is the propriety of division? The bone of contention has been removed, we are prepared to cooperate with our fellow citizens and thus purify politics. The Latter Day Saints in Idaho make up one-third of the population. We must necessarily divide in politics, but let us agree to differ, do not contend and quarrel, but make choice of good earnest men who will seek the good of

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1. Ibid., p. 317.
2. French, H. T. op. cit., pp. 491-492.
3. Bear Lake Stake Historical Record Book C, p. 89.

> the people, whether Democrats or Republicans. Seek the best man and the best measures. We wish to reform abuses, we want to take part in the government.[1]

The people followed the advice of being active in government but they ignored the advice to not contend and quarrel. A Republican Party had been organized at Montpelier in 1891, and after the question of accepting Mormons into the organization had been settled in the affirmative, many of the Saints joined that party. From then on Bear Lake had the typical political atmosphere of charge and counter charge.

Final settlement of the polygamy issue was made on March 24, 1908, when the court held that as long as civil laws were complied with, belief concerning the marriage condition in the hereafter did not invoke the clause in the Constitution.[2]

The national question involving the free coinage of silver completely overshadowed any local issues in 1896. The two newspapers of Bear Lake Valley were divided editorially with the Montpelier Examiner, edited by Charles Harris, presenting the case of silver. In the July 18 issue he wrote:

> The farmers of this valley should remember that with the free coinage of silver, the Wood River mines would once again give employment to thousands of miners. It would mean a great demand for coal for smelting their silver ores and this would mean greatly enlarged markets at Diamondville, Rock Springs and other camps for Bear Lake produce. Besides this, Montpelier would be the home of more train crews that would eat more farm products. Nothing is promised by McKinley and gold. Can you fail to make a choice in this?

Frequent public meetings were held with noted speakers to attract a crowd. William E. Borah spoke to a large crowd in the interests of silver

1. Rich, Russell, op. cit., p. 220.
2. Wells, Merle W., loc. cit., p. 252.

early in October.[1] Some of the most popular speakers for silver were silver Republicans.

The Montpelier Examiner of June 27 wrote:

> A few of Bear Lake's politicians, probably those who expect favors, have suddenly flopped to McKinley and gold. The majority of the voters, however, will support a silver man on a silver platform.

In 1896, Montpelier reported a Populist Party as well as a Democratic Party, a Gold Republican Party and a Silver Republican Party. The Populists were requested to meet at the town hall May 9, for the purpose of organizing a Populist silver club.[2]

To add to the vigor of the campaign, charges were made that undue Church influence was being exerted to sway the votes to the Republican column. Apparently the Paris Post, thought of as being under Church influence, had implied that a good Mormon could not vote for Bryan. Unfortunately we do not have access to any files of that paper prior to 1925 because of a fire, so the exact content of the article is not known. But, replying to this column, the Montpelier Examiner of September 18, 1896, reads:

> . . . No such flagrant usurpation of power would have been attempted in former days when the Church officials reigned almost supreme, and now for this kind of coercion to be tried simply shows how desperate these leaders are and how forlorn their hopes of success. . . . It's an exhibition of despotism that the Czar of Russia would hardly dare try. It shows to what ends certain men will go to in order to accomplish their purposes.

Such charges could have been shrugged off as the work of an anti-Mormon editor but in the same issue, and subsequent issues, letters appeared signed by Church people, repudiating the idea that the Paris Post

1. Montpelier Examiner, October 9, 1896.
2. Ibid., June 6, 1896.

represented the feelings of Church headquarters but, claiming that certain men of the valley in high Church positions had tried to create that impression.

In the year 1900, this controversy became the greatest local campaign issue. In this instance it was charged by such men as J. C. Rich and James E. Hart that President William Budge had called a meeting of certain Church members and had remarked that "the brethren" wanted continued support of the Republican administration by voting Republican. President Budge was on the Republican ticket for State Senator. A telegram was sent by J. C. Rich to President Lorenzo Snow mentioning the meeting and asking if it represented the feelings of the Church Presidency. President Snow wired back and stated that he had talked to President Budge and that Budge had said he called an informal meeting and had spoken as an individual Republican and that this was in keeping with the general Church policy of keeping out of politics.[1]

Meanwhile, James E. Hart had been sent to Salt Lake City to ascertain the information sought in the telegram. Mr. Hart had been in attendance at the meeting called by President Budge and reported to the Salt Lake Herald that Church policy did not sanction the actions of President Budge. For releasing such a statement, Mr. Hart was branded by President Budge as a traitor to his brethren and it was again explained that the meeting was not a Church meeting, but an informal meeting of private individuals. The people were greatly aroused and the county went almost completely Democratic.

One of the Democratic candidates to carry the valley as well as the state in 1900 was Thomas L. Glenn, a prominent lawyer in Montpelier. Mr.

1. Ibid., November 2, 1900.

Glenn was elected for one term to the United States House of Representatives. While there he worked actively for the Newland's Irrigation Bill and voted for the construction of the Panama Canal. Since he had run as a fusion candidate, he was representing the Populist interests also. After completing his term of office, he returned to his law practice in Montpelier.[1]

After 1900 Bear Lake Valley could be considered Republican much as the United States could be considered Republican. Montpelier was no different. The selection of Fred T. Dubois as Democratic Senatorial candidate in 1900 lost the party some support in Bear Lake County because of his activities in the polygamy affair as a United States Marshal. The local Republicans used this fact as major campaign propaganda the same year that D. W. Standrod was Republican candidate for governor. Standrod had been a United States prosecutor in polygamy cases. From 1904 to 1924 the majority of the people of Montpelier voted for Republican presidents, with the exception of Woodrow Wilson.[2]

Ecclesiastical developments

The selection of Montpelier as a division point on the Oregon Short Line Railroad and the subsequent influx of families, most of which were non-Mormon, developed the need for additional ecclesiastical organizations to care for the religious needs of these new people.

Consequently, in 1883, just one year after the railroad reached Montpelier, property was purchased from Jacob Jones Sr. by Reverend D. J. McMillan of Utah as a site for a Presbyterian Chapel. This edifice was built with funds donated by the Woman's Board of Home Missions and funds collected by Miss Florence Baker.[3]

1. French, H. T., op. cit., p. 987.
2. County Commissioners Record Book 2 and 3.
3. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.

Miss Baker held religious services in Montpelier when Reverend Robert P. Boyd, head of the work of the valley and residing at Paris, was unable to preach. There was a good attendance of railroad people to these services.[1]

In October, 1889, Reverend James P. Black became the first resident Protestant minister in Montpelier. He stayed only a short time with the following ministers succeeding him: M. H. Mead, George Lamb, Charles O. Mudge, James H. Rogers, Every O. Yemmerman, Charles Botts, James Waite and a Mr. Elliot.[2]

In 1889 a Presbyterian Church Society, composing ten members, was organized by the Reverends Boyd and Godsman. Somewhat later the Society decided to move "Downtown" and for some time services were held in the Brennan and Davis Hall. An attractive stone church was erected on the corner of Grant and Ninth Streets during the pastorate of George Lamb. The Presbyterian Church was the pioneer evangelical church in Montpelier; it exerted a powerful influence for community betterments.[3]

The first missionary of the Episcopalian faith in Montpelier was Bishop Talbot, missionary bishop of Idaho. He made numerous trips to Montpelier from 1895 to 1900 in promoting his work.[4] In 1901 Bishop Talbot appointed Reverend J. M. Johnson to the Montpelier parish. After four years Reverend Johnson moved to Laramie, Wyoming, and left Montpelier with no Episcopalian clergyman. A Mr. Curtis, a member of the parish, was made lay reader and endeared himself for the ministry to the people of Montpelier. When he left

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1. Ibid.
2. Passey, Earl, op. cit., pp. 36-37.
3. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
4. Passey, Earl, op. cit., p. 34.

to prepare himself for the ministry, Alvard Chamberlaine, another local member, became lay reader.[1] Mr. Chamberlaine set out industriously to provide recreational facilities for the members of his parish. On November 17, 1905, he opened to the public the facilities of a large two-room building. One room was a library and reading room and the other was a type of gymnasium. Sliding doors between the rooms made it possible to have a single large hall by simply folding back the doors. "Thus a fine public library and Montpelier's first supervised public gymnasium came into existence."[2] In due course of time, Mr. Chamberlaine was ordained and called to Blackfoot, leaving the Episcopalian parish with no regular clergyman. It was not entirely forgotten, however, since the minister from Blackfoot visited Montpelier once a month to conduct religious services. The peak activity of the Episcopalians resulted in a fine church, a rectory and a membership of about 50 people.[3]

In the early 1880's, Montpelier was on a Catholic Mission route and was attended once each month, or perhaps less frequently. Around 1890, the young Reverend Cyril Vander Donckt came to Montpelier and established the spiritual foundation of the Catholic Church. There were very few Catholic families in Montpelier at that time; Father Vander Donckt celebrated Mass about once a month in the Brennan and Davis Hall.[4]

As the years passed, the membership increased, and John Brennan and Edward Purtill, with the assistance of other Catholic men in the town, took up a public subscription to build a new church. The people of all denomina-

1. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
2. Passey, Earl, op. cit., p. 35.
3. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
4. Ibid.

tions responded generously to make this building possible.[1]

On Sunday, May 31, 1896, the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation was dedicated by Reverend A. J. Glorieux of Boise and Reverend Vander Donckt of Pocatello, who was the first priest in exclusive charge of the mission.[2]

The first marriage in the Church occurred April 8, 1897, when Edward Brady and Elizabeth Kelley were united by Father Vander Donckt. Father Vander Donckt continued his monthly visits to celebrate Mass until August 20, 1897, when Reverend W. J. A. Hendricks was transferred from Moscow, Idaho, and appointed first resident priest of Montpelier. He remained with the parish for seven years.[3]

An Altar Society was organized in 1898, with Mrs. J. R. Brennan as president. The main object of the society was to attend to the interior necessitities of the Church. By 1907 it had a membership of about 30 ladies, who met on the first Sunday of each month.[4]

The pastors of the Church from its establishment, listed in succession, have been: Reverends Cyril Vander Donckt, W. J. A. Hendricks, John Nolan, Joseph Beusmans, George de Stoop, who, during his six-year stay in Montpelier, built the rectory adjoining the Church, Father Burri, Father Gallahne and Father Buote.[5] As was true with the other "Downtown" churches, lack of a sizeable congregation made it impossible to maintain a resident priest.

The Montpelier Examiner of August 27, 1909, announced that Mr. M. B. Cherry was in receipt of information that a minister had been found to organize a Methodist Church in Montpelier. Liberal contributions from the

1. Ibid.
2. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
3. History of the Catholic Church in Montpelier.
4. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
5. History of the Catholic Church in Montpelier.

businessmen were making the building fund swell.[1]

The first minister seems to have been a Mr. Laughlin from Canada, who held services in a building "Downtown," probably the Odd Fellows Hall. He remained in Montpelier for only a few years, and was replaced by Charles Wheeler, who was in charge of building the frame church house which was completed in 1913.[2]

Though the membership of these churches never grew to large proportions, they offered an opportunity for spiritual expression for the non-Mormon citizens of Montpelier and in so doing made it a better place in which to live.

The year that the first train reached Montpelier, the Latter Day Saints of the valley were seriously contemplating the erection of a stake tabernacle. There were no buildings of adequate size to handle the crowds that attended the quarterly conferences of the membership of the entire stake.[3]

Because of the heavy donations required to finish the Logan Temple and the assessments for the Defense Fund for use in polygamy cases, the construction of the tabernacle was delayed.[4]

Finally, at a stake conference held in May, 1884, President George Osmond announced:

> Our stake tabernacle is the next work and one which we badly need.

Steps had already been taken to begin actual construction. The superintendent of the work was President Budge.[5]

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1. The various Protestant faiths united into a Community Church in 1930, using the Presbyterian Church as their meeting place. Membership in the various sects never increased enough to warrant a minister for each one.
2. Whitman, Clyde, Interview.
3. Rich, Russell, op. cit., p. 224.
4. Ibid., p. 227.
5. Ibid., p. 228.

On July 5, President Budge announced that between 1,100 and 1,200 loads of rock had been delivered to the building site. Construction work got under way. In order to keep the project progressing as late into the year as the weather would permit, it was necessary to raise enough money to pay $60.00 per day for labor. This meant an assessment of $1.50 per capita to raise the required $6,200.00. It was raised proportionately by the wards in the stake.[1]

After five years of sincere efforts the tabernacle was ready for dedication. It had been built by great sacrifice from the populace and had cost $50,000.00. Original plans had called for a $12,000.00 building. Dedicatory services were held on September 15, 1889, with President Wilford Woodruff and President George Q. Cannon in attendance.[2]

The Saints of Montpelier could share in the pride and joy felt by all the Saints of Bear Lake Stake. They had helped erect a beautiful building of native stone and described in 1899 as the finest church edifice in the state of Idaho.[3] It had been constructed at Paris, headquarters of Bear Lake Stake.

The official Church statistical report shows that in 1891, Montpelier had the following: 0 patriarchs; 34 seventies; six high priests; 50 elders; one priest; 11 teachers; 23 deacons; 334 members; 459 total officers and members; 251 children under eight years of age; 710 total souls and 110 families.[4] The number of families had increased to 145 by 1900.[5]

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., p. 234.
3. Lewis Publishing Company, History of Idaho, Chapter 14.
4. Statistical Report of Bear Lake Stake, January 31, 1891.
5. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Ward.

"Uptown" Montpelier had two chapels in 1885. About 50 German families had moved into the town and, since they spoke very little English, a small church was erected in 1885 in which they held their own services.[1] Frequent mention is made of the German meetings or the tithing settlements at the German meeting house in the diaries of John U. Stucki, who was the stake tithing clerk for many years.

In 1893, the regular meeting house was removed from its old foundation, moved back about 100 feet on the same lot, and rebuilt and enlarged.[2] The German meeting house, with the consent of the German brethren, was moved back and placed as a vestry in the rear of the enlarged house; united meetings were held from then on.[3]

In 1894 the meeting house lot was fenced and plowed and seeded to grass. There were about 150 Balm of Gilliad trees planted which grew into a huge grove. A year later a tithing office was erected, built of sandstone and costing about $1,800.00. It contained three rooms and a basement and was located two blocks north of the meeting house.[4]

The principal officers of the ward at that time were W. W. Clark, bishop; Joseph S. Robison, first counselor; and Edward Lorenzo Burgoyne, second counselor. Frantz M. Winters, Sr. was the ward clerk.[5]

Local newspapers

Being isolated from the seat of territorial government and having no medium for claiming their political rights except through delegates to political conventions, and having no medium which carried the news of the valley, it was deemed advisable to begin the printing of a newspaper in

1. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Ward.
2. Ibid.
3. Montpelier Ward Historical Record.
4. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Ward.
5. Ibid.

Figure 15. (top) The Montpelier Ward Meeting House which later became the First Ward Meeting House.
Figure 16. (bottom) The "Downtown" Presbyterian Church as it appeared in 1907.

Figure 17. (top) The Episcopal Church and Reading Room as it appeared in 1910.

Figure 18. (bottom) The Roman Catholic Church as seen from the west in 1910.

Figure 19. The Methodist Church, which later became the Masonic Temple.

1880. It was estimated that a printing outfit would cost around $500.00.[1]

Joseph C. Rich, James H. Hart, George Osmond and Walter Hoge were named as an editorial board to take charge of that department. Robert Price was elected manager and treasurer. All of these men worked in their positions without receiving any compensation.[2]

During the first years it was "uphill" business to keep the paper running. Wise economy had to be observed in its support with subscriptions being paid in labor, firewood and other products of the valley. Under the able management of Mr. Price of Paris, backed by the Paris Cooperative Institution, the paper was conducted to a successful, self-supporting institution and proved a benefit to the people.[3]

The management of the paper later changed hands and the name of Bear Lake Democrat gave way to the more dignified Paris Post--"degenerate sons of noble sires," according to J. C. Rich.

The Observer, published by Hardy and Elledge, was the first newspaper published in Montpelier. There are no files in existence and it has not been possible to determine when it started though it was some time prior to 1893.[4] The venture apparently had a short life.

In 1895 Charles Harris established the Montpelier Examiner, which has been in publication ever since, though the management has changed several times.

While owned by Mr. Harris, the paper was claimed by some to be a spokesman for anti-Mormon sentiment--a claim vigorously denied by the owner.

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1. Bear Lake Historical Record Book C, p. 48.
2. R.J.M. Bee, "Bear Lake Valley's First Newspaper," Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
3. Ibid.
4. News Examiner, September 10, 1942.

It is evident, however, that from the beginning, "a state of war" existed between the Paris Post and the Examiner.

An Examiner editorial of October 16, 1896, reads as follows:

> The Post is determined to array the rest of the county against Montpelier. Why it persists in this we know not, nor do we believe the people will pay much attention to this scapegoat. The farmers know that Montpelier furnishes the only cash market they have for their produce; it pays nearly one third of the county taxes. This home market is made possible by the despised railroad men, for they buy everything they consume from the Bear Lake Farmers and pay cash for it. The company for which they work pays one-third more of the taxes of the county and every month distributes several thousand dollars in cold cash in this city, a portion of which finds its way into the farmers' pockets of this valley. What do those connected with the Post do for the people of this section? Nothing! "They toil not, neither do they spin," yet they live off the fat of the land, and at the same time attempt to foment discord between the farmers and their best friends. Such work on the part of this snake-in-the-grass deserves the condemnation of the people, and it will get it.

The two papers represented different political points of view as well as different religious, economic and social points of view. Charges and counter charges were the rule in 1896, and the peak of antagonisms were expressed in the papers.[1]

The enmity of the papers was, in part, an expression of the antagonisms existing between the people of the communities. Because Montpelier had increased in size and importance as a result of the railroad and its subsequent Gentile population growth, the people of Paris felt a certain jealousy and insecurity as to the future position of their city.

The Montpelier Examiner was a crusading newspaper. The editor was either urging some course of action or vigorously criticising a course of

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1. For a good example of a heated editorial, see Appendix VI.

action taken. It is evident from a review of the files that he thought little in terms of subscribers won or lost. The columns kept Montpelier citizens aware of the need for a water system, light system and other city improvements.

In addition to the pleas for civic improvement and important news items from the country and world, the paper was full of local news items concerning the families of the valley, school happenings, church and club meetings, and other news of importance, thus helping the people to keep in touch with one another.

A good example of early paper wit is the poem, "Mary had a Little Lamb," listed below:

Mary had a little lamb;
That time has passed away.
No lamb could follow up the pace
Our Mary sets today.
For now she rides the airshod wheel
In skirts too short by half;
No lambkin shares her airy flight,
But you can see your calf.
But who is there that can complain
Or cry in woe, 'Alas'!
So long as Mary's calf's all right
The lamb may go to grass.
So all the men delighted gaze
Their joy is not a sham,
For while the other critters out
They have no use for lamb.[1]

Charles Harris sold the paper to C. E. Wright in 1904. The general appearance of the paper remained the same but the editor was not so plain-spoken and some claimed that the more moderate approach helped to weld the factions of the town into closer unity.[2]

In 1920, because it was felt that the local paper did not sufficiently provide for the commercial needs of the city, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Robinson

1. Montpelier Examiner, August 16, 1899.
2. Ibid., December 20, 1907.

were invited by G. C. Gray and other interested business men to print a small daily advertising sheet. This small four page, three column tabloid was distributed free to the families of Montpelier and largely replaced the dodgers and handbills currently in use. The paper proved very popular and was enlarged that same year to four columns.

In January, 1922, the paper was in demand throughout the county and The Bear Lake County News was entered in the post office as a tri-weekly newspaper. By 1925 it had been enlarged to a six-column, eight page newspaper and Montpelier had two weekly papers to keep the people aware of the activities of their city and valley. For those who did not subscribe to the large daily papers, there were news items concerning national and international events.[1]

No community is well served unless it has a local press and Montpelier's papers provided that service for the surrounding villages as well as for Montpelier.

The "town" schools

In 1884 the Presbyterian Church opened a mission school in a log house in "Uptown" Montpelier. Miss Florence E. Baker arrived from New York to teach the school. She taught first in a log cabin across the street from the Jones Hotel, and later in another log cabin west of Fifth Street until the church house, located on the northeast corner of Fifth and Lincoln Streets, was completed. The school was a night school for young men and had the extraordinary tuition that each student furnish his own candle or lamp. Miss Baker was transferred to Malad, Idaho, in 1886 and was replaced by Miss Mary Crowell and Miss Lottie Leonard, since the enrollment had

1. Robinson, Mrs. H. A., Interview.

increased enough to warrant two teachers. These ladies, teaching both Mormon and non-Mormon students, remained for 11 years, when the school was closed. By that time the public schools had enlarged sufficiently to care for the students.[1]

With the increase in population "Downtown," it became desirable to have an elementary school in the immediate vicinity. For the first several years these children were probably sent to the Presbyterian school. About 1888 a school was organized "Downtown," with Marcus Whitman as the first teacher. For three years he held school in the Knights of Labor Hall. Then in 1891, West Montpelier was formed into School District Number 15 and a two-story frame school house was built on Tenth Street between Lincoln and Grant Streets. The original school house was torn down and replaced by a brick building in 1917.[2] The teachers in 1891 were a Professor Robinette and T. A. Daughters. Geography was included as a course in 1892 by Anna Robinson and in 1893 Francis and Sarah Baker started classes in fractions. Miss Clara Enderle organized a graded system in 1898 and remained as principal for seven years.[3] In 1899 the enrollment of the school reached 155 divided as follows:

Grammar Department	Boys--16	Girls--20
Intermediate Department	Boys--20	Girls--31
Primary Department	Boys--32	Girls--36[4]

A new $6,000 brick school house was built by District Number 10 in 1893; it was located on the southwest corner of the public square. The building site was deeded to the school district by the town board of trustees with

1. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
2. Mildred Schoper, op. cit.
3. Wilde, J. P. Notes on Education in Montpelier.
4. Montpelier Examiner, September 20, 1899.

the reservation that if and when the property ceased to be used for school purposes it reverted to the city.[1]

The school was a two-story building with two downstairs rooms for the smaller students and a large upstairs room for the upper grades. The pupils would go to the front of the room and sit on a recitation bench, where they would recite the lessons for the day. They learned the alphabet first, one letter at a time, then they mastered counting up to 100. Slates were used for about two years when they were replaced by blackboards.[2]

John Miles was the first principal of the new school; he served two terms. One of his students recalled that he was a "beautiful reader," but he was also noted as a stern disciplinarian.[3]

Other early principals were John H. Booth, a Mr. Stoke, Carlton Burnham and Miss Winifred Hughes. Miss Hughes was a little woman who was visiting "Downtown" when the principal's vacancy occurred. She was non-Mormon but took the job and was respected as a fine teacher and principal.[4]

The first graduates from this tax-built school, called the Washington School, were Lorenzo Swenson, Nellie Pearce, Minnie Ridd, Lottie Raymond, and Edith Burgoyne. They graduated in 1903.[5]

Towards the close of the colonizing period there developed a desire for a school of higher learning, there being only district schools in the valley at that time.

> In April of 1882 the Bear Lake Democrat stated that the establishment of a high school was 'fast becoming a necessity' giving as reasons the expense of leaving home and the temptation involved.[6]

1. Trustee Minutes, Book No. 1, p. 54.
2. Swenson, Lorenzo, Interview.
3. Grosjean, Mrs. Lottie, Interview.
4. Swenson, Lorenzo, Interview.
5. Ibid.
6. Ruch, Russell, op. cit., p. 243.

Finally in 1887 a graded, higher school was organized, under the auspices of the Mormon Church. The first principal was Gottlieb L. G. Hessel. The school was named the Bear Lake Stake Academy.[1]

In 1889 when Church control of the district schools was diminishing, Brigham Young sent Karl G. Maesar to Bear Lake to "solidify the Church school movement there and put the Academy on a sound basis."[2]

The Academy had no official home and for a number of years it was shifted from place to place as necessity dictated. At first it was held in the court house, then a tinshop, then to one of the meeting houses. From there it was moved to an old furniture store which had been fitted up for that use. During these trying times the teachers donated part of their salaries to keep the school functioning.[3]

In 1896 it was decided to build a permanent home for the Academy. W. W. Clark, Bishop of Montpelier, made a motion that the structure be built in Paris. J. U. Stucki donated the site, which was on a hill due west of the court house. In 1901 the pupils of the Academy moved into their new home, which had cost $65,000.[4] The people of Montpelier had contributed about $3,500 of that amount by 1907.[5] It was named the Fielding Academy in honor of Mary Fielding, mother of President Joseph Fielding Smith, who was head of the Mormon Church at that time.[6]

Recreation

The differences of opinion as to what constituted proper social behavior and proper social atmosphere widened the chasm betwen "Uptown" and "Downtown"

1. Ibid., pp. 243-244.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
6. Rich, Russell, op. cit., p. 250.

for many years.

Drinking, which was virtually prohibited by the Mormons, was openly countenanced "Downtown" as was evidenced by the number of saloons in that section of the city. The Mormon leaders were wise enough to realize that some of their people quietly indulged but they were convinced that open saloons were open invitations to their young people to disregard the teachings of their parents.[1]

There was also the problem of proper dancing. Strong Hall, erected "Downtown" in 1887, was a dance hall not under Church jurisdiction. Though the proprietor, for the sake of greater harmony, had agreed to close at midnight and to prohibit the use of liquor in the hall, it was looked upon with grave suspicion by the Saints of Montpelier. This suspicion was not ill-founded since a rougher element attended the dances held there and there seemed to be plenty of liquor available just outside the hall. Then too, since the general Church rules for dancing did not apply at that place, it became a center of curiosity for many and a haven for those who smarted from strict Church regulations.[2]

When this dance hall burned to the ground in the fire that swept a business block in 1905, it was decided by the Church leaders that this was an opportune time to build a pavilion for parties and dances. A group of about 80 stockholders built the Montpelier Pavilion in 1906; it included a hardwood dancing floor 60 x 100 feet, an orchestra gallery, and a banquet hall, costing over $20,000.00. A majority of the stock was held by members of the Mormon Church.[3]

1. Phelps, William, Interview.
2. Bear Lake Stake Historical Record Book C., p. 161.
3. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.

The Pavilion also became a subject of concern to the Church leaders, since the management of the hall failed to conform to the rules adopted regulating dances. The management felt that since many of the people patronizing the hall were non-Mormon, it was awkward to open and close all events with prayer and to insist on closing at 11:30 even when non-Church members had rented the hall. Another cause for concern was the smoking room which the management felt made enforcing no smoking regulations easier. The Church leaders felt it was inconsistent to teach against the use of tobacco and then provide a room for it in a hall controlled by its membership.[1]

The circumstances which permitted the issuance of strict dance rules in 1880 and the rule requiring those people holding private parties to first submit a list of those invited for the bishop's approval, issued in 1882, were rapidly disappearing. The Church was forced by changing times to rely more on the efficacies of its teachings and less upon arbitrary mandates.

In the early 1880's an opera house was constructed in Montpelier on the corner of Washington and Ninth Streets. It was owned and operated by John Brennan and Mike Malone. Traveling troupes and local talent performed the year around. John Lindsay of the Old Salt Lake City Stock Company gave performances of MacBeth, Hamlet, The Shrew and other such plays at least twice yearly.[2]

In March, 1896, the Montpelier Examiner stated:

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1. Bear Lake Historical Record Book, 1915-1919, p.11. The Pavilion later came to be used as the High School Gymnasium and was torn down in 1945.
2. Pocatello Tribune, "Montpelier--Idaho's Queen City," no date given.

> A dramatic company has been organized in this city with nine members. The company will aim to put on at least one play a month. The best talent to be obtained in the valley has taken an interest and some good presentations will be given.

Officers of the organization were: Charles Hammons, president; Mrs. Maggie Anderson, vice president; Edward Hoover, secretary; and E. M. Webster, stage manager.

In April, 1896, the company sponsored the play "Jack Diamond" or the "fate of a gambler's wife." The Montpelier Examiner reported a full house and an excellent presentation giving special note to the acting of young Genevieve Williams.[1]

The people were not uncritical of these plays. They expected and usually got good performances but the Montpelier Examiner of March 14, 1896, had this to say concerning one:

> Unintentionally failed to mention last week the production of 'Confusion.' A large house greeted the production. The play itself is a good one and a capable company had it in charge, but the fact was noticed that they had not learned their lines as well as might have been done if a longer time for rehearsals had been taken. However, all who saw it went away satisfied that the play was rightly named.

By 1899 the enthusiasm for the theater had declined. On April 6, the Montpelier Examiner reported:

> It takes a fake Uncle Tom's Cabin layout or something similar by a foreign company to catch a big house in Montpelier. Local companies don't seem to draw lately either.

It wasn't long until stage plays received competition from the motion pictures. The first moving picture show was played in Montpelier in 1901

1. Montpelier Examiner, April 4, 1896.

and silent movies became a popular form of recreation. The first theater, if it could be called such, was located where the Royal Bakery now stands.

The first showhouse worthy of the name was the Rex Theater, located in the west half of the Cruikshank Building. It was owned jointly by Fred Cruikshank and John F. O'Conner and managed by Sherwood Gee. The price of admission was $.10.[1]

Joe Bagley and Gus Spongberg built a rather large theater on south Ninth Street. It took the business from the Rex, forcing it to close. The popularity of this theater was short-lived, however, because of its location off the main street, and business soon shifted to the Gem Theater, located on Washington between Eighth and Ninth Streets, owned and operated by Walter Stevens.[2]

In 1923 the Rich Theater opened its doors. The first performance was a home dramatic production called "The Wrong Mr. Wright," starring Seymour Spencer. The major attractions, however, were the silent movies.[3]

The citizens of the city took great pride in the brass band organized about 1895. The members were: Bert Toomer, Thomas Burke, Milford Williams, L. G. Strong, Lew Erickson, Harry Short, C. C. Anderson, Pete Hanck, Tom Bridges, Edward Carey and Bill Ridd. In addition to adding a sparkle to local parades, the band gave open air concerts and concerts in the Opera House.[4]

Typical of the spelling matches which had maintained popularity was the one held in the Brennan Hall in 1896. It was open to all who wished

1. Cruikshank, Fred, Interview.
2. Ibid.
3. News Examiner, April 15, 1943. The Rich Theater became the favorite and is the only theater in the city of Montpelier today.
4. Ibid., May 13, 1948.

to take part. Prizes were: first, $5.00 donated by Mr. Brennan; second, a jacket if the winner were a woman and a first class hat if a man--donated by Mose Lewis; third, three books donated by Sam Lewis; fourth, $1.00 cash donated by J. F. O'Connor; fifth, $1.00 cash donated by Fred Hansen. The spelling match was preceeded by a program presented by the children of the "Downtown" school. Admission was free to all.[1]

A variety of secret and fraternal organizations were formed in Montpelier subsequent to the arrival of the railroad. These organizations played an important role in the lives of the people, particularly the non-Mormons. "Club meetings were the principal forms of recreation when the cinema and the talking pictures were yet unknown."[2] At first these societies held their meetings in the second story of the old opera house but these quarters proved too limited. In 1897 the Odd Fellows Lodge erected a substantial two-story building on Washington Street, which proved adequate to serve their needs.[3]

1. Montpelier Examiner, June 6, 1896.
2. Passey, Earl, op. cit., p. 38.
3. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.

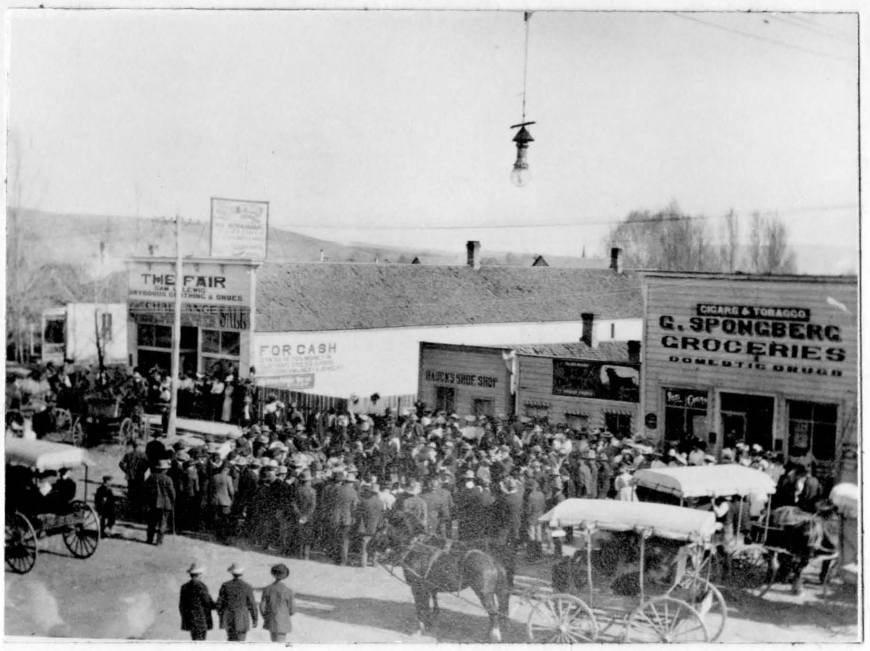

Figure 20. (top) The Billiards Parlor was the old Opera House erected in early 1880's. The parade is a parade of World War I veterans.
Figure 21. (bottom) A group of citizens are enjoying a street concert of the Brass Band about 1902.

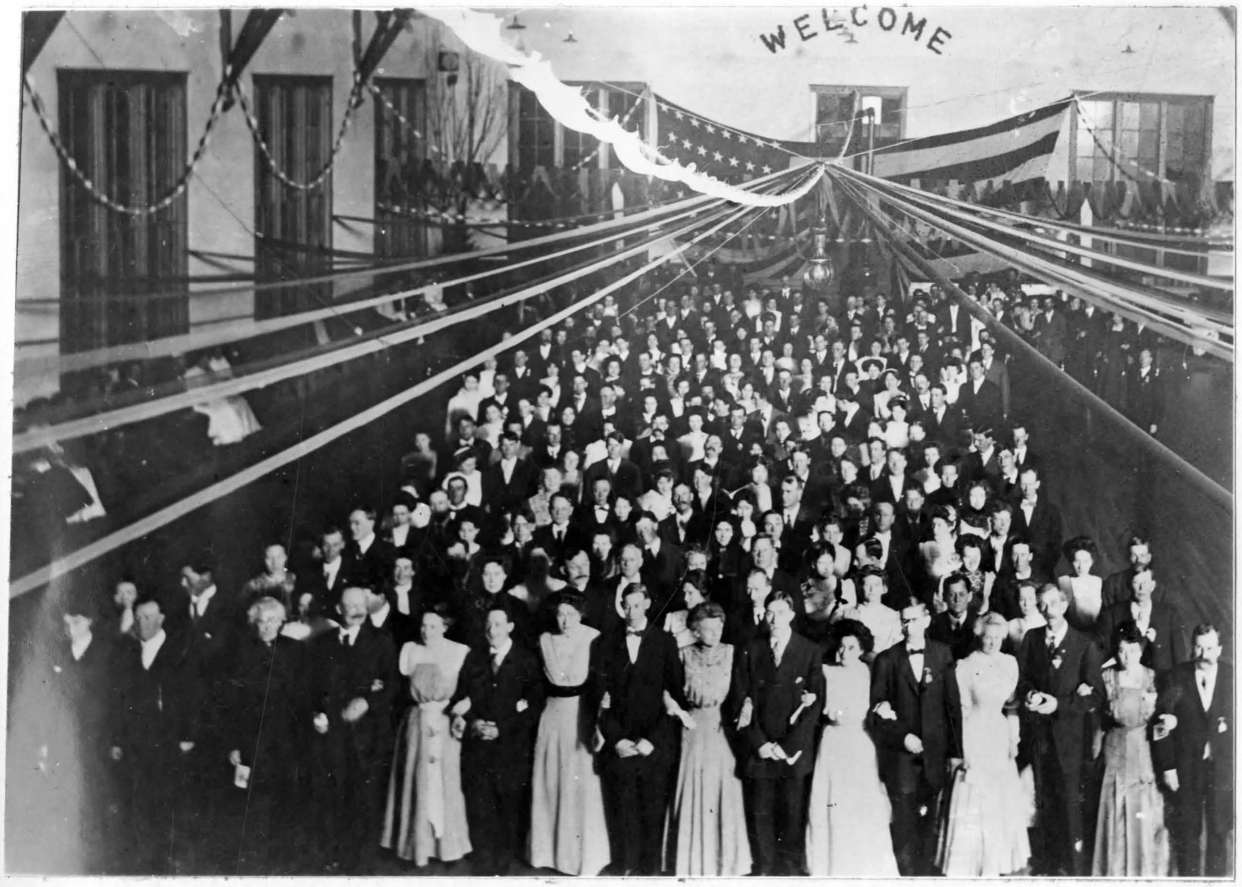

Figure 22. The grand opening of the Montpelier Pavilion in 1906.

MONTPELIER BECOMES A CITY

In 1890 Montpelier was a town divided into factions. Such divisions of the people worked against the best interests of the community as a whole, and leading citizens of "Uptown" and "Downtown" began to work earnestly for a unified city. The breakdown of theocratic government made this task easier for the Gentiles, and the subsiding of the polygamy question aided the Mormons.

Upon petition of the citizens of Montpelier the Board of County Commissioners appointed a village board of trustees on July 13, 1891. Appointed to the board were James Holmes Sr., John F. O'Connor, J. H. Kinnersley, C. A. Hoover and S. A. Mills. James Holmes was elected as chairman and S. A. Mills as clerk.[1] Thus Montpelier's first effective secular government for a unified city was launched.

At the first meeting it was decided that regular meetings were to be held the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. A journal of proceedings was to be kept and upon the request of any member the yeas and nays were to be entered in the journal.[2]

There were to be five standing committees--ordinance, finance, general improvements, streets and law and order, with two trustees serving on each committee. The committee on law and order was ordered to view the jail received from the county and put it in a "safe and wolesome" condition.[1]

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1. Trustee Minutes of Montpelier City, p. 1.
2. Ibid., p. 7.
3. Ibid., pp. 8-10.

It was provided that elections should be held the first Tuesday of April each year thereafter.[1]

John A. Kelly was appointed as police judge, F. L. Goddard became the first town marshall, and the board appointed Edward E. Chalmers as town attorney.[2] William Perkins was appointed water master to regulate the use of water for irrigation, stock and domestic purposes. He was to collect from every person using water $.75 per city lot and $.10 an acre for farming or meadowland. The money collected was to be spent in keeping ditches and headgates in order and in paying the salary of the watermaster.[3]

The salaries were set as follows:

Trustees--$50.00 per annum.
Marshall--$100.00 per annum plus legal fees for criminal work done.
Town attorney--$100.00 per annum plus $5.00 for each case prosecuted in the Justices Court and $10.00 for each appeal to the District Court.
Assessor and Collector, five per cent of all money collected in taxes. (This, I assume, would have increased the incentive to make collections).
Clerk--$.50 for each meeting, $.15 for each dog license and $.25 for every other license issued.[4]

In April,1892, the same board of trustees appointed in 1891 was duly elected by the voters. Other officers elected were Joe Fuller, assessor and collector; E. E. Chalmers, town counsel; G. C. Gray, treasurer; and William Perkins, watermaster.[5]

On March 13, 1893, the town was divided into three election wards. The first ward included the area east of a line following the center of

1. Ibid., pp. 8-10.
2. Ibid., pp. 10-11.
3. Ibid., pp. 16-17.
4. Ibid., p. 36.
5. Ibid., pp. 38-39.

Sixth Street; the second ward included the area west from this line to a line following the center of Ninth Street and all west from this line was included in the third ward.[1]

The town of Montpelier became the City of Montpelier in 1893; the first city election was held April 4 of that same year. The following officers were elected:

Mayor	Edward Burgoyne
Clerk	Charles W. Toomer
Treasurer	Grove C. Clay
Police Judge	John A. Kelly
City Engineer	Edward Rich

Councilmen

First Ward	Joseph C. Rich George Hillier
Second Ward	Charles H. Hager George Robertson
Third Ward	Charles H. Hammond Peter Maher[2]

Councilmen were elected for one and two year terms in each ward, the one having the largest vote holding the two year office. In the case of a tie, the decision was made by drawing lots.

The city attorney and the chief of police were appointed by the mayor with the consent of the council.[3]

A general reading of the council minutes reveals no major changes in the structure of the government since that time. The term of office was extended to two years in 1905[4] and the list of appointed officers

1. Ibid., pp. 71-72.
2. Ibid., p. 96.
3. Ibid., p. 77. For a complete list of mayors see Appendix VII.
4. Idaho Session Laws 1905, p. 385.

lengthened to include a night policeman, city physician, road overseer and sexton. In 1915 the day of election was changed to the fourth Tuesday of April.[1]

City elections, with a few exceptions, did not follow the pattern of national or state elections. Regular political party lines were not used, thus making it unnecessary for a local candidate to defend his political affiliation. Interest usually centered about the personalities running for the office since there were seldom any issues involved. At times it became impossible to get two tickets on the ballot.[2]

Candidates were most often chosen in conventions held for that purpose. To be a legal convention a minimum attendance of 40 qualified electors was required. Nominations were made from the floor, a majority vote being required for final nomination. An executive committee of not less than seven people was responsible for drafting a platform and selecting a name for the ticket, not to exceed three words. The Citizen's Ticket or the People's Ticket have been commonly used. There was no limit to the number of conventions that could be held.

Nomination could also be made by petition. Petitions for candidates who would represent the entire city required 40 signatures, whereas those who would represent a ward required only six.[3]

City law enforcement

A problem which faced the city officials was that of properly policing the community. Montpelier, apparently, had a hobo problem in 1896,

1. Idaho Code, Volume 9, Section 50-1701, p. 275.
2. Cruikshank, Fred, Interview.
3. Idaho Code, Vol. 9, Section 50-1804., p. 280.

probably as a result of the panic of 1893. The local paper stated that if the hobos increased throughout the season as they had during the spring, something had to be done. Several proposals were made such as increasing the police force or shipping them out of town, but the Montpelier Examiner favored a regular chain gang, pointing out that one good day's work would convince all hobos that Montpelier was not a desirable stopping place.[1] Either the local police force proved capable of handling the problem or it lessened appreciably since later issues of the paper are quiet on the subject and the city council minutes give no evidence concerning it.

During the summer months of 1896, the Butch Cassidy gang staged a daring daylight bank robbery in Montpelier. It took place as follows:

> On Thursday afternoon at 3:20 o'clock, while the citizens of Montpelier were quietly engaged in their usual daily avocations, three men, none of them masked, rode quietly down Washington Street to the Bank of Montpelier and dismounted. Cashier Gray and Edward Hoover were standing in front of the building talking. One of the men invited them inside, at the same time drawing a six-shooter. They did as directed, and when inside were told to stand with their faces to the wall and hands up. Two more men who happened to pass the bank door were also ordered in. Then one of the robbers went around behind the counter and held up Bud McIntosh, the assistant cashier, taking all of the money in sight and dumping it into a sack. Bud refused to tell where the greenbacks were and the man inside hit him over the eye with a gun. After ransacking the bank vault they went out, mounted their horses and rode off. The alarm spread quickly, and Deputy Cruikshank and Attorney Bagley were soon on the trail, closely followed by Sheriff Davis, who was in Paris when the robbery occured, and a large posse. The robbers took the canyon road leading to Thomas' Fork, when, several miles away they changed horses and, crossing Thomas' creek, took to the mountains. Telegrams were immediately sent to all points along the railway and to Lander, Wyoming, and a reward of $500.00 was offered for their capture by Mr. Gray. . .[2]

1. Montpelier Examiner, April 25, 1896.
2. Ibid., August 15, 1896.

The bank's loss was set at about $5,000, but it was fully insured against daylight robberies and the bank lost little or nothing by the occurrence.[1]

Matt Warner was later tried on flimsy circumstantial evidence and convicted for the bank robbery. He was sentenced to 35 years in the penitentiary. An interesting murder case was heard by the same judge in that session of court and upon conviction, the murderer was sentenced to ten years in prison. The judge was an ex-banker.[2]

Although the peace and quiet of the city was disturbed occasionally by some robbery or other act of violence, it can be said that the general atmosphere was one which required a minimum of policing and no serious question of prolonged intensity developed.

The bicycle craze and the automobile

> When a craze of any kind really catches on in this republic, restraint does not characterize its reception. The great bicycle craze of the Gay Nineties offers a good example. . .
>
> The craze hit all ages. It led to a change in women's styles--skirts became shorter--and it started the movement toward decent roads. It was the great leveler, too, demonstrating as never before the American principle that every man is as good as any other and maybe better.[3]

Montpelier was no exception. By April, 1896, the bicycle had become very popular. Fred Cruikshank, who was the agent for Rambler Bicycles, had sold them to such notables as Sheriff Davis, Mayor Murmane and John Brennan. They became so popular that the city was forced to legislate

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1. Ibid.
2. Cruikshank, Fred, Interview.
3. Kelly, Fred C., "The Great Bicycle Craze," American Heritage, December, 1956.

concerning them. A bicycle ordinance was passed providing that the machines were not to be ridden on the sidewalks and that if they were ridden at night they were to have a lamp.[1]

By June, the bicycles had become a public menace. The Examiner of June 13 stated:

> The city council ought to stop 'scorching' on Main Street and Washington Avenue. Hardly a night passes that someone does not get hurt by the reckless riding on the part of bicyclists. If anyone wants to test his speed, let him get out of town where all will be safe.[2]

The mania for bicycles soon declined and they ceased to be a major concern of the community, but they were succeeded by a greater concern, the automobile.

The advent of the automobile with its agencies, garages, service stations and motels added to the economic life of the community. It also introduced certain problems. A cry for better roads came from all the citizens. Communities were brought into closer relationships with one another, and the old hitching rail had to make way for curbs and gutters. The world became a smaller place, in a sense, and increased mobility made it more difficult for the local society to enforce its social standards on rebellious members.

The first car in the valley, a red Mitchell, was owned by banker G. C. Gray. It was, no doubt, a feature attraction. Another attraction which increased interest in the automobile was a transcontinental auto race from New York to Portland, Oregon, following the Oregon Trail.[3]

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1. Montpelier Examiner, April 25, 1896.
2. Ibid., March 7, 1896.
3. Smuin, Winifred, Interview.

The first agency was for the Ford Company and was organized by Fred Cruikshank and John Nelson in 1910. Mr. Cruikshank handled the business end of the enterprise and Mr. Nelson kept the machines in running order, having had experience on steam threshers. The cars were bought in the winter and sold in the summer. Fords at that time sold for $875.00. Mr. Cruikshank sold the agency to Henry Monson in 1918, who operated it for only a year or two before selling it to Tom Sneddon.[1]

Other agencies in Montpelier included Groo and Toomer, Buick dealers, Cokeville Automotive Company handling Oldsmobiles and J. C. Rich, agent for Studebakers.

Montpelier's location on two important highways, United States Highway 30, which partly paralleled the Oregon Trail, and United States Highway 89, often referred to as the National Park Road, made automobile developments even more important to the people of that city. The Montpelier Examiner of June 6, 1896 carried the following article:

> . . . From one of the government officials, Samuel Shill, it has been ascertained that, by the completion of the missing link between the Salt River Valley and Jackson's Hole, a complete wagon road from Montpelier would be provided for all the travel accruing at this point, which would be great owing to the distances given by Mr. Shill in comparison by which Montpelier would have the shortest and most feasible route to Jackson's Hole, Teton Basin and National Park. Not only would such a route be beneficial to this city, but also to Afton and all Star Valley towns. Our business men should bestir themselves in regard to this matter as thousands of dollars would annually be expended at this point. It would be one of the most scenic routes in the West and just the one the summer pleasure seekers would enjoy, as the entire proposed road traverses a country abounding in game of all kinds, while fishing equals if not excels the streams of the National Park. We might mention such streams as the Montpelier Creek, Crow Creek, Salt River, Stump Creek, Big Grayes River, Little Grayes River, Bailey Creek, and

1. Montpelier Examiner, August 13, 1918.

> many other smaller streams all of which would be a delightful resort for the "sport" with rod or gun. . . Distance to National Park as proposed from Montpelier, 127 miles, making it the shortest and most desirable route for the immense and growing trade and travel to that section of the country.

The full economic impact of highway travel was, of course, dependent upon the construction of suitable roads. By 1925 the roads were receiving a topping of gravel, but oiled roads and the immense park travel mentioned by the Examiner were yet to come.[1]

Increased medical facilities

As Montpelier's population increased, it became a more attractive place to practice medicine. There were too many patients for Dr. Hoover, whose practice extended as far as Big Piney, Wyoming. Consequently, in 1896, Dr. E. F. Guyon established an office in the Riter Brothers Drug Building and proceeded to build up a profitable practice.[2]

A major weapon for the prevention of epidemics of communicable diseases was the quarantine. In 1899 the School Quarantine Ordinances were published, defining the area affected as extending five miles beyond the corporate limits. The quarantine physician was appointed by the mayor with the consent of the council for a time not to exceed the next election, and could be removed by the mayor for cause. The Board of Quarantine was comprised of the mayor, the council and a physician whose jurisdiction included making and enforcing regulations. An infected person could be removed within limits as the board saw fit to protect the safety of the community. If it were found advisable to keep the infected person at home, a yellow flag was to be displayed in the most noticeable manner to warn of

1. In 1955 Montpelier had two truck depots, nine motels and 14 service stations.
2. Montpelier Examiner, March 14, 1896.

the danger and prevent egress or ingress until the danger was over and the abode disinfected. If personal items were considered to be dangerous, they were to be destroyed at the cost of the owner. Failure to obey quarantine regulations could bring a $50 fine, 30 days in the city jail or both.[1]

The first medical association in the valley was organized in 1907, with Dr. Guyon as president. The membership included the physician at Paris.[2]

Bear Lake County had its first hospital of 12 beds capacity when Dr. George Ashley moved from Paris to Montpelier and constructed the Montpelier Hospital in 1912. This was the only hospital between Rock Springs, Wyoming and Pocatello, Idaho.[3]

Practicing physicians in Montpelier in 1925 were E. F. Guyon, George Ashley, L. P. Gaertner and H. H. King.[4]

City improvements

At the time of incorporation Montpelier was a city of few internal conveniences. The dirt or gravel roads became bog holes after storms and the people had barely become conscious of the needs for sidewalks. In 1892 a project was started laying sidewalks made of two-inch planks.[5] These were gradually replaced by cement when in 1906, H. B. Whitman made the motion for such action.[6]

1. Ibid., June 1, 1899.
2. Ibid., November 8, 1907.
3. Mrs. Robert Robinson, Interview. Following the death of Dr. Ashley in 1938, the hospital was run by Dr. L. P. Gaertner until December, 1945, when it was closed. In 1937 the Bear Lake Hospital, also of 12 beds capacity, was opened over the Fair Store, under the management of Dr. Reed Rich and Dr. R. B. Lindsay. It closed in December, 1949. From then until the new Bear Lake Memorial Hospital, constructed by the county with federal help, was opened, the valley had no hospital.
4. Montpelier Examiner, August 13, 1925.
5. Trustee Minutes, op. cit., p. 43.
6. News Examiner, September 10, 1942.

Figure 23. The families in the Downing Apartments being placed under quarantine for the measles.

Being conscious of the hazards of fire, the first village board of trustees purchased a chemical fire engine in 1891 for the price of $1,375.00.[1] A building to house the engine was built on a plot of ground donated by J. S. Barrett.[2] The engine, however, did not prove to be a very efficient method of extinguishing fires and most blazes of any size simply burned themselves out. The engine was called Hoover's Comical Engine.[3]

This apparatus was replaced with a new engine of 55-gallons capacity in 1908, when the first regular fire department was organized. Al Thiel was the fire chief and directed division of the town into five districts.[4] After completion of the water works a hose cart was used.

For years the Montpelier Examiner wrote of the pressing needs for a waterworks system. By the turn of the century, there were approximately 2,000 people in the city and still there was no waterworks system. The people seemed content to let things drag along as they were.

Franchises had been granted to private companies, but the projects had proven too expensive and private capital was not prepared to do the job.[5]

Early attempts to bond the city for such a project had failed, mainly through the fears of the farmers that the waters of Montpelier Creek, badly needed for irrigation purposes, would be diverted to city domestic uses.[6] By 1906 this fear was largely overcome by the proposal to build a storage

1. Trustee Minutes, op. cit., p. 22.
2. Ibid., p. 24.
3. Cruikshank, Fred, Interview.
4. Montpelier Examiner, May 29, 1908.
5. Franchises had been given to J. J. Cussuk in 1892 and another to B. E. Slusser in 1903. Trustee Minutes, op. cit., pp. 58-61.
6. Montpelier Examiner, June 22, 1906.

reservoir which would store the spring run-off water until it was needed for irrigation.

It took a disaster to shock the public into awareness of the need for a good water system and that disaster struck in 1905. A fire started in a business block near the railroad and very nearly destroyed all the buildings of that block. Three saloons, a barber shop, a restaurant, a dance hall and store were burned to the ground and three other buildings were badly damaged. Losses were fixed at $25,000.[1] After the railroad water tank had been emptied, there simply was no other adequate source of water and the necessity of some form of protection loomed before the majority of people. A new bond election was held, bonding the city for $20,755.27, a sum less than the cost of one fire.[2]

The contract was let to Craver, Gilmartin and Zitzman and the people anxiously awaited its completion. The project had not been turned over to the city in October, 1907, but water was let into the mains for testing purposes. Coincidentally, a fire broke out in the lower part of town and the first water taken from the new system was used in extinguishing the blaze.[3]

The project was completed and accepted by the city early in 1908. Fred Cruikshank was the mayor at that time. Annual rates for the use of water were as follows:

Barber shop - not over two chairs	$12.00
Public baths - first tub	6.00
additional tubs	3.00 each
Billiard Halls and Pool Halls	12.00

1. Passey, Earl, op. cit., pp. 48-49.
2. Montpelier Examiner, June 22, 1906.
3. Ibid., November 8, 1907.

Individual Residences	$12.00
Livery Stables	60.00
Theater or Opera House	10.00
Urinals in stores or other buildings	6.00 each[1]

The cultural life of Montpelier was improved by the establishment of a public library. This fine work was largely attributed to two ladies' clubs--The Gem of the Mountains, and The Village Improvement Society.[2]

On January 1, 1900, the first series of books from the Parmelee University Traveling Library arrived at Montpelier. Reverend W. J. A. Hendricks said:

> The first series arrived yesterday and to every person that aspires to higher education and information, it is a real source of knowledge and a solid gold mine of intellectual advancement.[3]

The library was located in two rooms upstairs in the old First National Bank Building on the corner of Tenth and Washington. One room was kept for the traveling library and the other housed the permanent volumes and was open to the public two afternoons each week.[4] Mrs. O. H. Groo and Mrs. Pease were the first librarians and Mrs. Charles Harris was the chairman of the library committee.[5]

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1. Book of Ordinances, ordinance 101, p. 30. In 1925, the city culinary system was supplied with water from a dirt reservoir feeding five miles of wooden pipe. In 1937 wooden pipe was replaced with cast iron pipe. Other improvements were the development of spring water amounting to 500 gallons per minute; two deep wells with automatic pumps capable of supplying 2,000 gallons per minute; and two sealed reservoirs cleaned at regular intervals, one in Montpelier Canyon with a capacity of 480,000 gallons and the other on M Hill, with a capacity of 600,000 gallons, making a total storage capacity of 1,080,000 gallons.
2. Montpelier Examiner, December 10, 1907.
3. Ibid., January 1, 1900.
4. Ibid., December 20, 1907.
5. Charles Harris, Interview. The library is now housed in the City Hall.

The people of the city voted a $25,000 bond in 1916 for the construction of a City Hall. This attractive brick building was completed in 1916 and in addition to the administrative offices and the city jail, there is an auditorium used for many public meetings. It is located on the corner of Sixth and Washington Streets near the center of the city, and on the line which at one time divided the two towns.[1]

In 1918 the city council set the boundaries of Local Improvement District Number One. The assessed valuation of this district was determined and the people voted a bond for $36,043.88 for the laying of a sewer system.[2] This was a much needed improvement. Before the project was completed, it became necessary to form an additional improvement district to provide adequate funds with which to complete the job.[3]

The sewer is the type which drains through a series of tanks and empties into the Bear River about one and one-half miles west of the city.

In December, 1919, the city purchased a plot of ground in block 16 of the Burgoyne addition for $6,000 to be used as a memorial park. It is located just opposite the depot and is covered with trees and grass. Though rather small, it affords a place of relaxation for weary travelers.[4] At the same time the city purchased additional ground in Block Two of the Bagley addition for public park purposes.[5]

Montpelier City, before 1920, was spending considerable sums of money on maintaining the gravel roads. It was necessary to scrape them and and to spray them with water to keep down the dust and to keep them passably clean.

1. Council Minutes, Book No. 2, p. 340.
2. Ibid., p. 464 and p. 506.
3. Cruikshank, Fred, Interview.
4. Council Minutes Book No. 2, p. 656.
5. Ibid.

Figure 24. Montpelier is justly proud of its beautiful City Hall. It is located on Washington Street immediately east of Sixth Street. In it are located the city administration offices, a large auditorium and the City Library. The building was erected in 1916, at a cost to the city for building and grounds of $28,135.12.

Figure 25. In June, 1906, Ezra Meeker drove his team of oxen into Montpelier on his way East to commemorate and advertise the Oregon Trail. After his departure the Village Improvement Society of Montpelier undertook the task of raising enough money to place a monument on the trail in Montpelier. The monument was secured and unveiled at a pioneer ceremony July 24, 1907.

After a number of public meetings the council decided to hold a bond election for the porpose of paving streets. The people voted to pave Washington Street from Fourth Street to the railroad tracks and to pave Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Streets from Jefferson to Lincoln Streets; curbs and gutters were also to be put in.[1]

Although the paving program had scarcely begun and although there were still parts of the town without access to the sewer, Montpelier began to acquire an aura of respectability and neatness and its citizens looked upon it with greater pride as a place in which to live.

A city school system

By 1905, the people of Montpelier had become convinced that it was uneconomical and otherwise unsound to maintain two school districts. A petition calling for a merger of the schools was circulated with hardly any opposition. In 1906, Independent School District No. One of Bear Lake County was organized, uniting the schools of Montpelier into a city system. F. W. Willis became the first superintendent of the district.[2]

Since the only high school in the valley, the Mormon Church school at Paris, did not appeal to the non-Mormon families in Montpelier and since it required the Mormon students from Montpelier to board at Paris, there was an increasing desire to construct a high school at Montpelier. Furthermore, the citizens felt that they had an adequate population to sustain such a school. A bond election was held and approved and a building was started in 1906.[3] That same year the first high school freshman class comprised of ten students[4] met in the small northwest room of the Washington building. Fred Willis, the superintendent, was the high school staff, acting as the

1. Council Minute Book No. 3, p. 22.
2. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
3. News Examiner, October 21, 1937.
4. Jennie Barrett, Finch Ridd, Myrtle Conley, Mabel Pearce, Marguerite Whitman, Harold Toomer, Cecil Hull, Earl Jonley, Forest Stuart, Raymond Reese, and Mildred Whitman.

principal and the sole teacher. Classes were held in the morning and the course of study included algebra, English, ancient history and physical geography--all required.[1]

In 1907 high school was again held at the Washington School. There were 25 freshmen and ten sophomores. Miss Lois Virginia Stoddard became the second member of the faculty with Carol F. Banghart as superintendent and principal. The sophomore classes were geometry, botany, Latin, English and medieval history. It was that year that the students chose red and grey as the school colors.[2]

A new $30,000 high school building was completed in 1908, and although there were no provisions for running water, electric lights, indoor restrooms or office space, the high school students had a home of their own. H. S. Stevens was appointed as principal with Miss Georgia Bassett and a Mr. Sanders as teachers. The junior course of study included advanced algebra, second year Latin, modern history and English. There were 30 freshmen, 15 sophomores and five juniors in school that year. Class organizations were effected for the first time.[3]

The fourth year of high school commenced with Mr. Stevens as principal, aided by Mr. Sanders and Miss Estelle Rinehart. Mr. Sanders resigned at Christmas recess and a Miss Agnew took his place. The seniors studied English, American history, chemistry, commercial arithmetic and geology. Most of the chemistry equipment was destroyed by fire but was replaced with money raised when the students sponsored an evening program

1. Schoper, Mildred, op. cit., p. 4.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., p. 5.

at the First Ward meeting house.[1]

The baccalaureate services for the first graduating class were held in 1910 in the old Montpelier Theater with Reverend James Laughlin, Pastor of the Methodist Church, delivering the speech. Commencement exercises were also held in the Theater, with an admission fee of ten cents per person to pay the cost of renting the hall. Dean Elliot of the University of Idaho delivered the address. There were only two students in the graduating class, Mabel Pearce and Mildred Whitman. One was class president and the other served as secretary and treasurer. Since their average marks were the same they each gave combined salutatory and valedictory addresses. To make the platform seem more occupied, the entire faculty sat on the stage to keep the girls company.[2]

By 1925 there were 160 students in Montpelier High School and the graduation class was 19 times as large as the first class to graduate in 1910. The junior high enrolled 200 students and the grade schools 430 students in that year.[3]

The student body in 1923 decided to make a large M on the hill just east of the city. Ferris Miles was student body president at that time. Plans for a concrete M proved too expensive and were replaced by the plan of trenches filled with rocks which were to be whitewashed. Lorenzo Swenson, manual arts teacher, laid out the design with a transit set on the steps of the high school. Each year the senior class was to straighten the rocks and give them a new coat of whitewash.[4]

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., p. 6.
3. For a list of superintendents, principals and number of graduates see Appendix VIII.
4. Swenson, Lorenzo, Interview. The M still remains intact and is maintained annually by the seniors of the high school.

Figure 26. (top) The Washington School as it appeared in 1907 after the right side of the building had been added.
Figure 27. (bottom) The brick Lincoln School building which replaced the old frame building in 1917.

Figure 28. Montpelier's first high school completed in 1908 at a cost of $30,000.00. When finished it had no provisions for running water, rest rooms or electric lights. There was no space provided for an office. The basement floor contained a boiler room and three classrooms, the first floor four classrooms and the second floor two classrooms and a large study room.

Figure 29. In May, 1907, the "Uptown" and "Downtown" schools celebrated their first eighth grade graduation exercises together although they were separate schools.

Sitting left to right, first row: Lucille Jensen, Leander Ericksen and Alice Sharp,

~~Second row~~: Bert Brown, Elmer Burgoyne and Mary Herman.

Standing: Clarence Swenson, Libby Gilgen, Lucille Cozzens, Olive Dalrymple, Clare Hogenson, Vilate Perkins.

The people of Montpelier were proud of their schools. They were proud of their high school, which was the first tax supported public high school in the valley. They were proud of the education that their children received. There was great satisfaction in feeling that the opportunities provided at home made it possible for their children to compete favorably with the children elsewhere.

Montpelier becomes a stake center

Although the original effect of the railroad created mutual hostility and suspicion between "Uptown" and "Downtown," the seeds for an integrated society were there from the beginning. Increased opportunities for making a livelihood meant a steady growth in Mormon population which gradually extended west towards the railroad until there was a fusion of the two towns. Mormon families employed by the railroad or with business enterprises "Downtown" established residences near their places of employment. As these people came to know one another as neighbors and business associates, their hostility melted to friendship.

By March 21, 1909, it became necessary to establish an additional ward in Montpelier for the Saints of West Montpelier. At a stake conference at Paris, the Montpelier Ward was divided into the Montpelier First Ward and the Montpelier Second Ward. The dividing line was Seventh Street, running north and south through the center of the city.[1] David Sutton was appointed as bishop of the First Ward and Henry H. Hoff as bishop of the Second Ward.[2]

1. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Ward.
2. For a list of bishops see Appendix III.

By 1916 the population of the First Ward had increased until it was thought desirable to make another division. At a meeting held in the Montpelier First Ward, December 17, 1916, the ward was divided, with the northern sector becoming the Third Ward. This meeting was attended by Apostle David O. McKay and the stake presidency. Thomas M. Mumford was ordained bishop with Joseph M. Phelps and Robert L. Robison as counselors. Sidney E. Burgoyne was the ward clerk.[1]

For a short time the meetings of the new ward were held in the tithing office, but soon the ward purchased a church building originally erected by the Presbyterians and later owned by the Montpelier Relief Society;[2] it was removed to the tithing office lot where it was enlarged and improved.[3]

At a stake conference of the Bear Lake Stake held December 23, 1917, the far-flung Bear Lake Stake was divided and all the settlements east of Bear River were organized into the Montpelier Stake of Zion. Montpelier gained the prestige of a religious center in addition to being an economic center. Edward C. Rich became the first stake president with Henry H. Hoff and Silas L. Wright as his counselors.[4]

Immediately upon the organization of this new stake, steps were taken towards the building of a stake tabernacle at Montpelier. Ground was broken May 9, 1918, and the corner stone laid June 22, 1918. The first conference in the building was held March 15 and 16, 1919, and the building was dedicated by Apostle Heber J. Grant September 14, 1919.[5]

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1. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Ward.
2. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
3. Phelps, William, Interview.
4. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Stake, p. 1.
5. Montpelier Stake Historical Record A, pp. 129-131.

The tabernacle was built in the form of a half circle of beautiful brick and stone, and has a seating capacity of about 1,600. The cost, including the lot, was about $76,000.[1] It ranks as one of Montpelier's finest structures.

By 1922 it became necessary to create an additional ward in Montpelier. The Second Ward was divided and on October 22, 1922, Montpelier Fourth Ward was organized. John W. Jones became the first bishop with John J. Sarbach and John Black as his counselors. Joseph Einzinger was chosen as ward clerk.[2]

Meetings were first held in the old John Wells' building on Main Street. However, through the energy of the people, a new brick chapel seating 450 persons was ready for use by December, 1923. Besides its auditorium it had three classrooms, a kitchen, banquet hall and lavatories. The cost of the building was $18,000.[3]

1. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Stake.
2. Jenson, Andrew, Montpelier Ward.
3. Ibid. No further divisions occurred until February, 1956, when a Fifth Ward, including the area north of Washington and between Sixth and Eighth Streets, was effected. Homer Mouritzen was announced as bishop with Roscoe Evans and Edward Williams as counselors.

Figure 30. One of the most beautiful edifices in the city of Montpelier is this Latter Day Saint Tabernacle for the Montpelier Stake of Zion. The Montpelier Stake was formed from a part of the Bear Lake Stake in 1917 and the necessity for a stake tabernacle arose. It is located immediately west of Sixth Street on Washington Street. It was the first tabernacle with this type of architecture to be erected by the Mormon Church.[1] Ground was broken for the building on May 7, 1918. The corner stone was laid on June 22, 1918. Dedicatory services were held under the direction of President Heber J. Grant, September 14, 1919. A fine pipe organ graces the interior. The building has a seating capacity of 1,650 and was erected at a cost of $76,000.00

1. Passey, Earl, op. cit., p. 21.

Figure 31. (top) The Second Ward Meeting House. From 1909 to 1914 the members of the Second Ward met in the old Examiner Building on the northeast corner of Eighth and Washington Streets.

Figure 32. (bottom) The Third Ward Meeting House. Originally the first Presbyterian Church, it was purchased by the Third Ward, moved to a new lot and remodeled. The smaller building to the right is the old sandstone tithing building.

Figure 33. The Fourth Ward Meeting House which was completed in 1923 at a cost of $18,000.00.

CONCLUSION

By 1863 it had become apparent to the leaders of the Mormon Church that new areas were needed to care for the increasing numbers of immigrants arriving in Utah. Equally apparent was the fact that if full advantage was to be taken of the new Homestead Law, previously unattractive mountain valleys would have to be settled. In the process of expansion to meet these needs, Montpelier was settled. The success of the settlement belongs to its hardy Mormon founders.

For almost 20 years, the Montpelier Saints were left to work out their destinies in their secluded settlement under a single leadership. Then in 1882 that condition of isolation was disturbed by the arrival of the Oregon Short Line Railway. The selection of Montpelier as a division point brought an influx of families outside the Mormon faith. Already suspicious from previous experiences, the Saints regarded the Gentiles as a rough element and possible persecutors. The Gentiles, on the other hand, resented the clannish superior attitude of the Mormons and the power of their theocratic government.

These animosities were magnified by the polygamy controversy that rocked the nation for over a decade. It seemed to be Gentiles vs. Mormons and "Downtown" was full of Gentiles. Montpelier was not a town; it was two towns.

With the settlement of the polygamy question and with the institution of real secular government, emotions began to "cool" and people began to see that much of their thinking had been prejudiced. Leading citizens saw

that division produced social stagnation and that unity meant progress. They realized that there were Mormons "Downtown" and Gentiles "Uptown." More people came to see that the railroad had lifted Montpelier from an obscure rural village to a second class city, and also that the railroad had made Montpelier the most important city in Bear Lake Valley.

Mutual problems began to get united attention. A water works was installed, the schools were merged under a single administration, a beautiful City Hall was built and the streets were paved. As the people worked on these problems, they began to forget about "Downtown" and "Uptown." They had a greater vision in mind, a vision of the City of Montpelier.

A P P E N D I X

APPENDIX I

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S INSTRUCTIONS TO SETTLERS AT PARIS

I do not design to preach but merely to express my feelings in regard to this valley; we find it to be an excellent valley as far as we can judge from present appearance. It is a fine place to settle and raise grain, to build houses, make farms, set out orchards, raise fruit, and all the necessaries of life to make ourselves happy here as well as in other places.

Elder Charles C. Rich, one of the 12 apostles, has been appointed to dictate the settling of this valley. We wish to have the brethren abide by his council and if he needs instructions he will receive them from the proper source. Build mills to facilitate the building up of your towns and settlements, and let there be no selfish monopoly in this. Let the brethren not burn up any timber that will make lumber, but bring it down to your mills and saw it up for your fences to build your houses, and make improvements of the best kind. My opinion is that the adobe is the best building material if it can be well protected from moisture which is an easy matter where plenty of lumber is to be had, and when they have stood one year they are prepared to stand for 500 years as well as not. When you build your permanent dwellings, build nice commodious habitations and make your permanent dwellings as fast as you can. When you form your settlements get together pretty close, let there be at least ten families on ten acres of land. When you start to build upon a block (Brother Charles C. Rich, please remember this), have the brethren build upon that block until every lot is occupied before you touch another, that if you are attacked by Indians, one scream will arouse the whole block.[1]

1. Ricks, Joel E., Forms and Methods of Early Mormon Settlement, p. 130.

APPENDIX II

Following is the list of men who wintered in Montpelier, Idaho in the year 1864. Also listed is the number in each family and the amount of flour and grain each had.

NAME	NO. IN FAMILY	FLOUR #	BUSHELS WHEAT	BUSHELS OATS	BUSHELS BARLEY	BUSHELS POTATOES
Joseph Cozzens	3	850	40	12	1	---
Joseph M. Phelps	5	500	125	15	12	---
Charles Dana	7	1150	50	20	7	---
E. Landers	3	300	60	40	7	---
James Dennings	9	1000	75	100	7	4
Levi Cifford	7	700	70	15	--	---
Matt Fiffield	8	600	40	30	--	---
John Hibbert	7	550	--	30	30	2
Isaac Burton	6	450	16	4	--	---
Hezekiah Moore	4	300	15	--	--	---
Isaac Odekirk	11	1000	100	5	--	---
William Teeples	4	350	8	2	--	---
Morris Phelps	10	800	32	3	--	---
Christen Hogensen	5	800	10	40	--	---
Alex Stephens	3	275	9 3/4	--	--	---
William Vaughn	4	600	20	--	--	---
E. F. Munn	4	50	7½	1	--	---
John T. Huff	4	700	40	--	--	---
A. P. Fordum	1	---	2	--	½	---
Moroni Davis	3	300	16	12	2½	1½
C. Hogensen	4	600	150	50	--	4
Clark Ames	7	450	30	--	--	4
James Holmes	9	300	20	6	--	6
John Bunney	4	450	15	--	--	---
Till Clifford	4	600	15	2	--	---
Charles Atkins	4	250	80	--	--	2
John Turner	3	500	10	50	2	7
M. J. Ellis	3	250	20	--	8	5
William Severn	3	500	40	18	--	2
Isaac Thorn	4	400	20	--	--	---
Andrew Jacobsen	2	300	20	26	--	---
Ed Burgoyne	3	150	16	--	5	---
Olsen	--	180	33	--	--	---
Hyrum Phelps	--	---	--	--	--	---
John Hancock	--	---	--	--	--	---

1. Hyrum Holmes, Record Book.

APPENDIX III

BISHOPS AND STAKE PRESIDENTS

Stake Presidents of Bear Lake Stake

David P. Kimball	1869-1874
Charles C. Rich	1874-1877
William Budge	1877-1906
Joseph R. Shepherd	1906-1917

Presidents of Montpelier Stake

Edward C. Rich	1917-1938
Silas L. Wright	1938-1947
Walter A. Hunzeker	1947-1955
Khalil V. Hansen	1955-----

Bishops of Montpelier Ward

John Cozzens, Presiding Elder	1864-1874
Charles E. Robinson	1874-1883
Samuel Matthews	1883-1886
William L. Rich	1886-1893
Wilford Woodruff Clark	1893-1909

Bishops of Montpelier First Ward

David Sutton	1909-1914
Edward C. Rich	1914-1917
Lewis Perkins	1917-1940
George Tibbitts	1940-1946
Walter A. Hunzeker	1946-1948
Royal D. Clark	1948-1954
Roland Jaussi	1954-1956
David H. Jensen	1956----

Bishops of Montpelier Second Ward

Henry H. Hoff	1909-1917
William J. Crockett	1917-1922
David C. Kunz	1922-1927
H. Herman Hoff	1927-1930
B. E. Mumford	1930-1942
Alvin Tueller	1942-1955
Leland Muir	1955-----

Bishops of Montpelier Third Ward

Thomas Moore Mumford	1916-1922
Sidney Burgoyne	1922-1931
Seymour Spencer	1931-1937
T. Emery Mumford	1937-1942
Vernal Peterson	1942-1947
John Teuscher	1947-1954
Frank Hirschi	1954-19--

Bishops of Montpelier Fourth Ward

John W. Jones	1922-1929
John J. Sarbach	1929-1939
Eugene P. Shepherd	1939-1952
Lyman Berrett	1952-1954
K. V. Hansen	1954-1956
Doyle Anthony	1956-----

Bishops of Montpelier Fifth Ward

Homer Mouritsen	1956-----

1. The above information was gathered from material and records in the Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City, Utah.

APPENDIX IV

AN EARLY RUSTLING EPISODE IN BEAR LAKE

Later we moved back into the Bear Lake, where we made our home for 20 years. During this time I was often called on to do dangerous service in the interest of our settlements. After the Indian troubles were over, we had outlaws to deal with who were worse than Indians. For a long time the frontier communities suffered from depredations committed by cattle rustlers and horse thieves. Organized bands operated from Montana to Colorado. They had stations about a hundred miles apart in the roughest places in the mountains. They would often raid our ranges and steal all the cattle and horses they could pick up, driving them into their mountain retreat. They got so daring finally that they even came into the settlements and robbed stores and killed men. The colonists did not get together to stop these outrages till after a fatal raid was made upon Montpelier, when a store was robbed and a clerk was shot dead. This roused the people of the valley to action. General Charles C. Rich called upon leaders of the towns to send two men from each settlement--the best men to be had--to pursue and punish the outlaws. Fourteen men responded to the call, among them four of the leaders themselves. It fell to my lot to be one of this posse.

We struck across the mountains east of Bear Lake, following the trail of the robbers to their rendezvous on the Big Piney, a tributary of the Green River. We knew that they had hidden themselves in this country, for two of the men with us whose stock had been stolen had followed the robbers to their den to recover their property. Finding the outlaws in such force, they didn't dare to claim their stolen flock, but returned to Bear Lake for help.

These men led us to the place where they had come upon the outlaws; but the outlaws had evidently feared pursuit and moved camp. To hide their tracks they had driven their wagons up the creek right in the water for over a mile. Then they had left the creek and driven up a little ravine and over a ridge. As we rode up this ravine to the top of the ridge the two men who were in the lead sighted the tepees of the robbers in the hollow below. They dodged back to keep out of sight and we all rode down into the thick willows on the Big Piney, hiding our horses and ourselves among them. The two men that had sighted the outlaws camp then slipped up the hill again on foot, secreting themselves in the sagebrush at the top of the ridge and watched the rest of the afternoon to see whether the outlaws had mistrusted anything; but they showed no sign of having seen us. At dark they came and reported.

We held a council then to decide what plan to pursue to capture the outlaws. As the robbers outnumbered us more than two to one and were well armed, it was a serious business. Our sheriff weakened when the test came; he said he couldn't do it, and turned his papers over to Joseph C. Rich, as brave a man as ever went on such a trip. There were others who felt pretty shaky and wanted to turn back, but Mr. Rich said we had been picked as the best men in Bear Lake and he didn't feel like going back without making an attempt to capture the thieving band. One man said he was ready to go cut the throats of the whole bunch of robbers if the captain said so but Mr. Rich said, "No, we did not come out to shed blood. We want to take them alive and give them a fair trial."

Every man was given a chance to say how he felt. Most of us wanted to make the attempt to capture the outlaws, and the majority ruled.

How to do it was the next problem. It would have been folly for so few of us to make an open attack on so many well-armed men. The only way we could take them was by surprise, when they were asleep. This plan agreed upon, Mr. Rich proposed that we go down the hill with our horses and pack animals, get in line at the bottom, jump from our horses, run into their tents and grab their guns. When we had decided on this plan of action, Mr. Rich said that this probably meant a fight. If it did we should let them fire first. Should they kill one of us, we must not run; for if we did so they would kill us all. We should give them the best we had. With our double-barreled shotguns loaded with buckshot, we would make things pretty hot for them if they showed fight.

In order that we might know exactly the situation and have our tents picked out before hand, so as not to get in a mix-up, two volunteers were called for to go down through their camp in the night and get the lay of things. Jonathan Hoopes and I offered to go. Their tepees were pitched on both sides of a little stream, which was deep enough for us to keep out of sight by stooping a little. Down this stream we stole our way, wading with the current so as not to make any noise, till we got right among the tepees. The biggest one was pitched on the brink of the stream. We could hear some of the men inside of it snoring lustily. Hoopes reached his hand up and found a blanket on which were some service berries spread out to dry. Being hungry, we helped ourselves, filling our pockets with them.

After taking in the situation fully, we slipped back to our boys.

There were seven tents in all, and 14 of us--two to each tent. Hoopes and I were to take the largest, the other boys were assigned theirs. We waited for day to break; just as it did, the word was given; we popped spurs to our horses and away we went.

A few seconds and we had leaped from them, rushed onto the tents and begun to grab the guns from the robbers who, wakened so rudely, stared stupidly while we gathered in their weapons. By the time Hoopes was through passing them out to me, I had my arms loaded with rifles and revolvers. Mr. Rich told me to carry them up the hill a piece and stack them. "Shoot the first man who makes a move to touch them," was the order. When I looked around, there set three of our men on their horses; they hadn't done their duty, so some of the tents were yet untouched. I told Hoopes, and he jumped over the creek to one of them. I was just gathering up some weapons I had dropped when a big half-breed made a jump at me, grabbed my shotgun and we had a lively tussle for a few minutes. He might have got the better of me, for he was a good deal bigger than I, but Hoopes jumped to the rescue and cracked him on the head with his revolver so hard that it knocked him senseless for some time.

When the outlaws rallied themselves enough to sense what had happened, they broke out of their tents in double-quick time, swearing and cursing and demanding what we wanted. Captain Rich told them to keep quiet, that they were all under arrest, that we had the advantage, but we would not harm them if they behaved themselves. Seeing that it was useless to resist, they settled down.

The captain then ordered them to kill a calf for us, as we had not had anything to eat since noon the day before. They obeyed orders and we soon had a good breakfast. Later in the day part of our men went out and searched their herds. A good many cattle and horses belonging to our men were found among them.

The leaders of the outlaws were not in this band. They were off making another raid somewhere. One of the band of outlaws was deaf and dumb. Captain Rich took this fellow aside and carried on a conversation with him by writing. From the man he learned that the rest of the band were expected in that night, but as they didn't come, we concluded that they had seen us and were lying off in the hills waiting a chance to ambush us and rescue their comrades. We were too sharp to give them the chance to do that. For three days we waited, guarding our prisoners. Then, as we thought it too risky to try to take so large a band of desperate men through the rough timbered country we must pass to get home, we took 40 head of their horses as a bond for their appearance at court in 30 days, and let the prisoners go.

When we were ready to set out, we carried their guns to the top of the hill, and Hoopes and I were left to guard the weapons till we were sure our men were far enough away to be safe; then we left the weapons and struck out for home after them.

As no one ever came to redeem the horses, they were sold at auction. This nest of outlaws was broken up for good the following year. Since then that part of the country has had no serious trouble with horse thieves and robbers.[1]

1. Wilson, Elijah Nicholas and Driggs, Howard R. The White Indian Boy, pp. 207-212.

APPENDIX V

The following is an account of the only death attributed to the Indians:

As near as I can remember, it was between 1867 and 1868 there was a man named Fred Weisner, who was in charge of a store in Montpelier, but the store was owned by a man in Ogden named Fred Keizel. The store was located just about east of the Joseph Robinson residence and across the street near the creek. Weisner was boarding at our home, but slept in the store. One evening he came to supper as usual and was in an extra jolly mood, laughed and talked and said he had been treating some girls that afternoon. After he had eaten his supper as usual, instead of staying and chatting awhile as was his habit, he left, saying he would go and get a good night's rest, and bid us good night. That was the last time we ever saw him alive. Father was out of town that night and mother and we children were home alone. It was in the middle of the summer and because it was so warm father had built a brush shelter at the back of the house for us to sleep in. After we had gone to bed we were suddenly awakened by some calling, 'Hold on,' four or five times. Mother jumped out of bed and looked between the brush and listened for a moment, then the person called the name of Dave Osborn three times. (He was the Justice of the Peace and lived on the corner known as the William Ridd home). Then there was a shot and a flash of light and mother turned to us children and said, 'For God's sake, let's go into the house, someone has been shot.' In a few minutes men, women and children were gathering in the street and just about in front of Royal Clark's home, Fred Weisner lay dead, face down, his right hand over his heart and blood streaming between his fingers, and his left hand holding up his trousers as he had not taken time to put his suspenders up. Someone had broken into the store and he had run for help. His loaded gun was lying by his bed. Some thought it might be Indians, but it was never known who had done the killing.[1]

1. Perkins, Anne Marie Bunney, loc. cit.

APPENDIX VI

A MONTPELIER EXAMINER EDITORIAL EXEMPLIFYING THE EARLY FUED BETWEEN THE PARIS POST AND THE MONTPELIER EXAMINER.

Over at Paris there is emited once a week a putrid fume calling itself a newspaper. It goes by the title of the Post, and right well does it resemble the name. It never has grown an inch in progressiveness. It never was known to sprout an idea of any kind, in fact its brains, what few it has, are planted in alkali, with the accent on the last syllable.

It is not managed or run as a business venture. Its owners or editors, whoever they are, don't expect any money returns out of it, except what can be squeezed out of politics, and politicians by lying, blackmailing and other questionable schemes. It is used only as a viaduct for its filth, through which it tries to besmear other characters and bring honest people down to its own level of degradation. This 'thing' attempts, by falsehoods, to array the Mormon people against this paper and against its editor, but EXAMINER'S subscription is continuously increasing in every town in the county, thus showing that those who are unprejudiced see nothing detrimental to their religion or leaders in these columns.

This 'thing' claims no maternity, or, in other words, no one stands or is willing to be known as its editor. Therefore, its attacks are cowardly and likened to those of a sneak, and as such, we brand the article of last week in its columns. In this instance, in endeavoring to say something dirty, it overdid the thing, and the boomerang is already getting in its work.

This 'thing' pretends to stand as representative of a great church, and yet it wallows in the mire of falsehood and sleeps in the den of iniquity. No wonder hundreds of Mormon people stand aghast at this 'thing's' rottenness and excessive gall, and refuse to uphold it in its attacks.

This 'thing' has become a stench in the nostrils of the people, and yet, through representing to be a newspaper, has saddled itself on the people of the county and through other divers means attempts to force them to patronize it. It stands for all that is lowdown and disreputable, all the while posing as a Church organ and a moral paper. No wonder the rank and file of the Mormon Church people detest its utterances and its barefaced hypocrisy.[1]

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1. Montpelier Examiner, June 20, 1896.

APPENDIX VII

Following is the list of mayors of Montpelier:

Edward Burgoyne	1893
P. H. Murmane	1896
J. S. Barett	1897
Fred L. Cruikshank	1898
James Redman	1899
J. S. Barrett	1900
T. L. Glenn	1903
Milford Williams	1904
Fred L. Cruikshank	1907
Frank Jones	1909
Henry H. Hoff	1911
A. B. Gough	1913
Robert Sneddon	1915
Henry H. Hoff	1919
Henry H. Hoff	1919
M. J. Davis	1921
Dr. George F. Ashley	1923
Asa A. Vealey	1925
Frank M. Williams	1931
L. S. Wedel	1941
Seth C. Kelsey	1945
O. B. Solum	1947
George P. Stock	1947
Wesley R. Baker	1953
Arthur W. Walton	1957[1]

1. Taken from the files at the City Hall, Montpelier, Idaho.

APPENDIX VIII

A list of Superintendents of the Montpelier City Schools and a list of the number of graduates from Montpelier High School to 1925

Fred L. Willis	1906-1907
Carol F. Banghart	1907-1910
T. M. Reese	1910-1911
H. S. Stevenson	1911-1918
J. M. Cummings	1918-1920
W. E. Morgan	1920-1933
A. J. Winters	1933-1953

1913	3	graduates
1914	12	"
1915	14	"
1916	9	"
1917	16	"
1918	15	"
1919	13	"
1920	15	"
1921	5	"
1922	19	"
1923	15	"
1924	24	"
1925	39	"

1. News Examiner, October 21, 1937.

APPENDIX IX

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES IN MONTPELIER IN 1907

In 1908 the Commercial Club was replaced by the Chamber of Commerce. There were 30 members in 1907.

The Odd Fellows Lodge No. 18 was instituted October 13, 1887 with 15 charter members. In 1897 the lodge erected a substantial two story stone building which in 1907 served as the meeting place for all the secret orders in Montpelier. Membership in 1907 was 67.[1]

In April, 1892, Hope Lodge No. 20 was organized with 53 members. These were the Rebekahs who cared for the aged of the Odd Fellows and wives and also helped in the education of orphans. They helped to beautify the Odd Fellows' Hall by furnishing a piano, chairs, etc.[2]

The Masons were first organized under the name of King Solomon, No. 27, on September 14, 1892. In 1907 the lodge had 60 members in good standing.[3]

Under charter from the General Grand Chapter at Chicago, the Queen Isabel Chapter Order of Eastern Star was organized in September, 1898, with 30 members. Many members moved away and the charter was later transferred to the Grand Jurisdiction of Idaho.[4]

Montpelier Hive No. 4, Ladies of the Maccabees of the World, was organized on May 7, 1907, with 32 members. The organization combined social as well as insurance features. Those not able to pass the rigid physical examination were taken in as social members but did not enjoy insurance protection.[5]

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1. Montpelier Examiner, December 20, 1907.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.

A Knights of the Maccabees organization was effected on June 14, 1904.[1]

The Idanha Lodge of the Knights of Pythias was organized in July, 1890. At its organization it had a membership of 22 and in 1907 was considered one of the best fixed financially in the state.[2]

On November 8, 1901, the Gem of the Mountain Circle No. 417, Women of Woodcraft was organized with 27 members. They met the first and third Friday nights of each month.[3]

Walnut Camp No. 167, Woodmen of the World, was effected in April, 1894; it had a membership of 60 in 1904.[4]

In November, 1906, a Modern Woodmen of America Camp was organized with 18 members. It held its meetings the second and fourth Saturday nights each month.[5]

Lodge No. 195, The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, was organized in 1883. The object of the order was protection for its members and their families. It had a membership of 51 in 1907.[6]

Bear Lake Division 324 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was organized on January 5, 1887. Its membership stood at 55 in 1907. Meetings were held the first and third Saturday nights of each month.[7]

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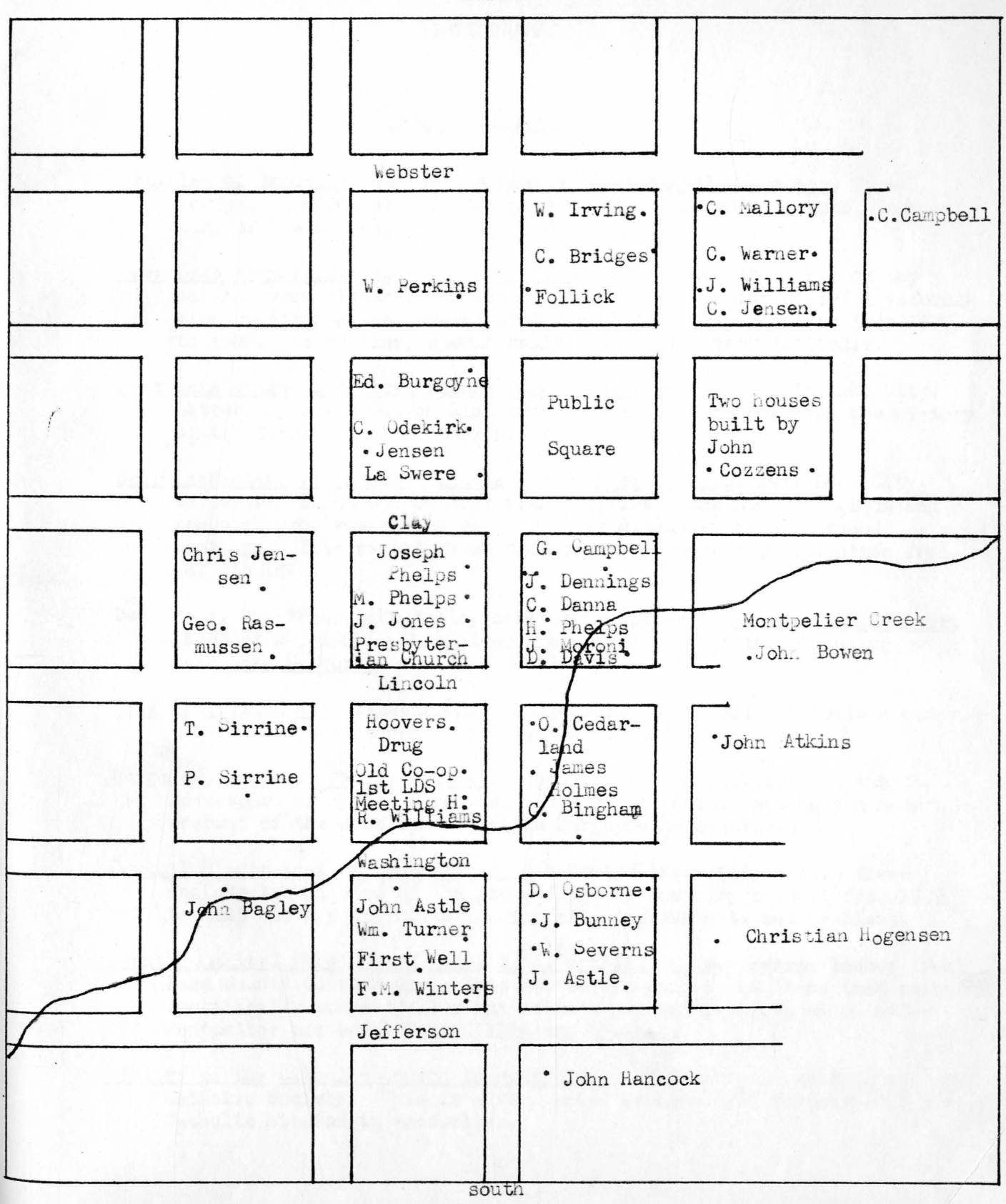
1. Ibid.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.

APPENDIX X

EARLY LOCATIONS IN THE ORIGINAL MONTPELIER TOWNSITE



1. Passey, Earl, op. cit., p. 13.

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Progressive Men of Idaho. Chicago: A. W. Bowen and Company, 1904. This source is not too valuable since all of the biographical sketches are eulogistic; it does not present a factual account of the people and their problems.

Sullivan, Maurice. Jedediah Smith, Trader and Trailbreaker. New York: Press of the Pioneers, Inc., 1936. Information concerning the 1827 rendezvous at Bear Lake, particularly the presence of the cannon is found in this book.

The Idaho Encyclopedia. Prepared by the Federal Writers Project. Caldwell: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1938. Not much information about Montpelier is found in this volume.

Wells, Merle W. "The Idaho Anti-Mormon Test Oath, 1884-1892." Pacific Historical Review, Volume XXIV, 1925. This is a very useful source for an interpretation of the controversy caused by anti-polygamy legislation.

Wilson, Elijah Nicholas and Driggs, Howard R. The White Indian Boy. New York: World Book Company, 1919. This gives an account of early rutling activities in Bear Lake Valley and the action by Church leaders to end these maraudings.

General Histories

Bancroft, Hubert H. History of Washington, Idaho and Montana. San Francisco: A. L. Bancroft and Company, 1890, Volume XXXII. This volume describes early cooperatives in Bear Lake and explains the importance of the advent of the Oregon Short Line Railway.

Barrett, William E. The Restored Church. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1947. This is a general history of the growth and development of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Billington, Ray Allen. Westward Expansion, A History of the American Frontier. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1949. This gives some interesting data on the Peter Burnett party as it left Independence, Missouri for Oregon.

French, H. T. History of Idaho. New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1914, Volume I. This volume gives a brief and reliable account of the development of Montpelier up until 1900.

Hafen, LeRoy R., and Rister, Carl C. Western America. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1941. This volume is useful for its information on early Oregon migrations.

Young, Levi Edgar. The Founding of Utah. New York: Charles Scribners' Sons, 1924. This was not very useful except for a few facts concerning the distribution of land.

Personal Interviews

The following interviews took place between the years 1953-1956.

Bridges, Elgin, age 58. Montpelier, Idaho. Grandson of Elizabeth Bridges, early midwife in Montpelier.

Burgoyne, Sydney, age 68. Montpelier, Idaho. Grandson of Edward Burgoyne.

Cruikshank, Fred, age 83. Montpelier, Idaho. Son-in-law of Edward Burgoyne, twice mayor of Montpelier and a dependable source of information about Montpelier since 1895.

Grosjean, Lottie, age 71. Montpelier, Idaho. Daughter of Joseph Morris Phelps.

Harris, Charles, age 88. Montpelier, Idaho. Editor of the Montpelier Examiner and local attorney for many years.

Hess, Genevieve, age approximately 65. Montpelier, Idaho. Daughter of Sarah Burgoyne Williams.

Nielson, Eugene, age approximately 45. Montpelier, Idaho. Son of Thor Nielson, who was owner of an early furniture store in Montpelier.

Nelson, Mrs. R. K., age 34. Montpelier, Idaho. Had done research concerning the Nephite canals in the bottom lands west of Montpelier.

Phelps, William, age 82. Montpelier, Idaho. Son of Joseph M. Phelps, who was a pioneer settler of Montpelier.

Rich, Daniel C., age 70. Paris, Idaho. Grandson of Charles C. Rich and author of a short history of Bear Lake.

Robinson, H. A., Mrs., age approximately 65. Montpelier, Idaho. Began the Bear Lake County News in 1920 and present co-owner of the News Examiner.

Robinson, Robert Ashley, Mrs., age approximately 73. Salt Lake City, Utah. Sister of Dr. George Ashley, owner of the first hospital in Montpelier.

Smuin, Winifred, age 49. Pocatello, Idaho. Daughter of Fred Cruikshank and a collector of valuable photographs and notes on Montpelier history.

Swenson, Lorenzo, age 65. Montpelier, Idaho. Son of Mary J. Swenson and the first clerk of Montpelier Stake.

Swenson, Mary J., age 86. Montpelier, Idaho. Daughter of Christian Hogenson, a settler who came from Paris to Montpelier in 1863.

Vealey, Ace, age 67. Montpelier, Idaho. Co-owner of Montpelier Coal and Lumber Company.

Whitman, Clyde, age approximately 55. Montpelier, Idaho. Son of H. B. Whitman.

Winters, A. J., age 63. Montpelier, Idaho. Son of Franz M. Winters, early pioneer in Montpelier. Superintendent of Montpelier Schools from 1933-1953.